THE OXFORD PAPER

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MP rejects MEP's allegation of neglect over Brexit remainers

By George Welch

OXFORD East MP Anneliese Dodds has been accused of failing to represent the pro-remain majority in the city when speaking on her constituents' behalf on Brexit.

In a letter seen by this newspaper, Green MEP for Oxfordshire Keith Taylor claims the Labour member's constituents have been left "immensely frustrated and disappointed" by her "inability to represent the 70 per cent who voted to remain.

Mr Taylor said his letter was based on feedback received when he hosted a meeting at Oxford Town Hall earlier this month.

The 64-year-old wrote: "When I suggested the attendees look for support from their MP, I am sorry to have to tell you that there was an immense frustration at what they have interpreted as inaction on your part in representing the remain preference of your voters.

"I note your website doesn't seem to mention Brexit, despite its huge importance to the city."

Mr Taylor vowed to pass on all of the residents' concerns to Ms Dodds who denied his claims and insisted she is "doing everything I can for my constituents."

The pair used to work alongside each other in the European Parliament before Ms Dodds was elected as an MP in last June's general election.

Mr Taylor added: "Anneliese is clearly toeing the party line. The trouble is, the Labour Party's line on Brexit is dishearteningly close to the Tory government's.

"Oxford residents have no idea of what kind of post-Brexit future we're heading towards.

"I have worked alongside Anneliese many times before with great effect and I hope she will join me again in the campaign to give people the final say on any Brexit deal.

"It's the least the people of Oxford East deserve."

Ms Dodds, who is part of the shadow treasury team, said she was surprised at Mr Taylor's accusations.

The former MEP said: "He should look at what I have been doing in parliament. I'm doing everything I can for my constituents.

"I try to represent all of them and I have received various views [on the issue]. I do everything possible to make sure these are expressed."

She has spoken 42 times on the EU-related Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Bill and 59 times on the Taxation (cross-border trade) Bill, better known as the Customs Bill.

Ms Dodds added that she has regularly discussed Brexit with constituents having knocked on doors in Oxford and hosted countless meetings.

Through these, she said topics such as research funding, EU rights and NHS staff have been deliberated with residents.

Oar-some: The Active Body Healthy Mind sports project run by Aspire provides disadvantaged people with sports and social activities to improve well-being, self-esteem and confidence and has been boosted by the partnership

Charity enjoys a stroke of good fortune

AN Oxford charity that supports vulnerable people back into work has been given a boost following a new business partnership.

Aspire Oxford has been nominated as the central Oxford charity partner for the Midcounties Co-operative.

The company will organise fundraising events for the charity and set up donation points in up to 50 Co-operative Food stores.

Fundraisers will also take part in various sporting challenges on behalf of Aspire, including sportive Bike Oxford and the Oxford Half Marathon.

The partnership will also provide funding for a Back-to-Work scheme and provide Aspire trainees with week-long work placements to re-introduce them to a working environment.

Aspire chief executive Paul Roberts said: "We're over the moon about the partnership as their support will make all the difference to the number of people we can reach."

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Attack victim suffered more than 80 injuries

By Owen Hughes

A BLACKBIRD Leys man received more than 80 injuries in a vicious attack last year

Christopher Lemonius was found with multiple injuries in Jourdain Road in Blackbird Leys Park on June 1 shortly before 11pm and later died in hospital.

A trial which started on April 3 into Mr Lemonius' murder continued at Oxford Crown Court this week.

The court heard that the 27-year-old was found with more than 80 wounds and a finger completely severed.

Police later found the missing digit in the back garden where the savage attack took place.

A Home Office pathologist told jurors that Mr Lemonius received 30 injuries to his head and neck, including one injury that penetrated his skull.

The first witness in the trial, Dr Alexander Kolar said he thought a sharp-edged object had been used in the attack, such as a machete or another with a serrated edge

His attackers are said to have driven a car at him before beating him with golf clubs, pieces of wood and hacking at him with a machete causing internal bleeding in his head and torso

Prosecution QC Stuart Trimmer said there had been a confrontation between two groups in the park.

A larger group chased Mr Lemonius and two friends before an Audi A3 was driven at the victim.

Mr Lemonius fled down a nearby alleyway and into a house where five men attacked him in the back garden.

Witnesses said they heard shouts of "let's finish him off" and references to the stabbing of Yasmine Lamzini.

Yousef Koudoua, 23 of Balfour Road, Oxford, and Connor Woodward, 24 of Haldane Road, Oxford, who deny the charge gave differing statements to police after being charged with murder, according to Mr Trimmer

Both Yasine Lamzini, 20 of Jourdain Road, Oxford, and Rashaun Stoute 24, of Church Cowley Road, Oxford, declined to comment and also deny the charge.

Two others charged with the murder, Otman Lamzini, 24,of Jourdain Road, Oxford, and Carlos Spencer 26, of Wynbush Road, Oxford, deny the charge.

An unnamed 17-year-old from Oxford and Saffon Fakir, 26 of Territorial Way Oxford, deny conspiracy to pervert the course of justice after allegedly hiding evidence.

Allal Lamzini 68 and Yamina Lamzini, 57 both of Jourdain Road, Oxford, who were in the house at the time of the attack deny perverting the course of justice

The trial is expected to last for up to eight weeks.

InBrief

Toys R Us closure

BELEAGUERED retailer Toys R Us has announced the closure dates for the remainder of its 75 UK stores

Oxford's Botley Road branch will close for business on Saturday and all outlets will be shut by Tuesday after efforts to save the company failed.

Making the announcement, the company said on its website its closing down sale is offering discounts of up to 70 per cent on toys and games

College sex claims

ALLEGATIONS of misconduct and sexual harassment at an Oxford University college will be investigated by an independent inquiry

The governing body of St Hugh's College commissioned the investigation after claims about the behaviour of a now-deceased fellow

Writing on the women focused website The Pool, author Mel McGrath accused Professor David Robertson, who died in August, of "doing a Weinstein on me"

The inquiry will be led by Alison Levitt QC who carried out a review into the decision not to prosecute Jimmy Savile.

Robber jailed for threatening car park staff with a knife

A knife-wielding robber who threatened staff at an Oxford car park with an 18-inch blade has been jailed.

Craig Parker 33, of Teviot Road, Reading, escaped with £380 after screaming 'I will stab you in the leg, I will stab you in the chest' at staff.

Oxford Crown Court heard this week how the motorbike-riding thief pulled into the UPark temporary car park at Osney Lane at about 9 20am on October 20 last year

Parker burst into a port-a-cabin where staff were counting their takings for the morning. After threatening staff with his knife he fled on the motorbike.

Shortly after an eagle eyed passer-by spotted the same motorbike being loaded into the back of a white van. Suspicious she alerted police

Officers eventually cornered the van after it was spotted on an automatic number plate recognition camera in Reading

Parker was arrested with his accomplice, Andrew Leighton, 30, of Frilsham Road, Reading, who admitted his part in the incident acting as a getaway driver. He pleaded guilty to assisting an offender

Parker, who pleaded guilty, was jailed for six years for the robbery and 18 months for the blade, to run concurrently

Leighton was jailed for two years for assisting an offender and a further four months for breaching a suspended sentence.

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Let's play! Children enjoy new nursery

THE county's newest children's nursery has opened its doors.

The Old Station Nursery based at the 700-home Heyford Park development in Upper Heyford, will cater for 64 children aged from birth to five years old.

The new north Oxfordshire centre opened on April 9 and will provide full day care or part-day sessions

It is expected to receive government funding for some two-year olds and all three and four year olds

Sarah Steel managing director of The Old Station Nursery, said the fabulous new facility "will make a real difference to local families"

Jeanne Evett, from Dorchester Living, the developers behind Heyford Park, added. "Childcare is essential for working families and the children of our community are very important to us

"We are delighted that The Old Station Nursery is now open and providing excellent childcare and early education for local families."

Visit tinyurl.com/ya78d67g for more information.

May Day crowd to be controlled

By George Welch

NEW measures will be introduced to tackle large crowds at Oxford's annual May Day celebrations.

One-way channels will be introduced to help the crowd flow and bicycles, ridden and pushed, will be banned from Magdalen Bridge.

The move comes after Oxford City Council was forced to apologise last year when a crowd surge on the bridge caused 'distress' for a number of revellers.

A record-breaking 27,000 people turned out in force to join in the festivities last year.

The reviewed crowd management system also means people will not be allowed to stop in the channels, with stewards and signs directing them to areas where they can view the event.

If the bridge becomes full, people will not be allowed access to avoid what the council described last year as "unexpected crowd movements".

The new system includes designated viewing areas for wheelchair users and families with young children for the first time in the car park of Magdalen College School and in Rose Lane.

Paula Redway, the council's cultural development manager said: "We take crowd safety incredibly seriously and, following last year's May Morning, the city council and event partners have been working hard to make sure that the crowd problems are not repeated.

"Magdalen Bridge will look different during this year's event, with signs, barriers and stewards directing people to keep the crowd flowing on the bridge. We ask that those wishing to attend make themselves aware of the new plans."

May Day marks the coming of spring and has been a unique tradition in the city for more than 500 years.

The celebrations will start at 6am on Tuesday, May 1 with the choristers of Magdalen College choir singing the 17th century Hymnus Eucharisticus, from the college's Great Tower.

This will be followed by the Great Tower's bells ringing out over the city for around 20 minutes.

Events and activities, including Morris Dancing and folk singing, will then take place across the city.

Visit dailyinfo.co.uk/mayday for more information.

Safety measures. A record-breaking 27,000 people gathered in the city centre for last year's May Day celebrations which will be more controlled this year
Picture Anthony Morris Fanmoor

InBrief

Lord Mayor tribute

A MINUTE'S silence will be observed when Oxford City Council meets on Monday in memory of former Lord Mayor Pat Stannard.

Mr Stannard was on Blackbird Leys Parish Council for 15 years and served as the city's Lord Mayor between 2003 and 2004, died last month aged 79.

His funeral will take place on Monday at midday at Oxford Crematorium.

Singing to win £10k

MATT Vaughan, a former DJ at Oxford's Hollywood Bowl, will be singing in a TV show on Sunday.

Change Your Tune challenges five terrible singers to improve their voices before performing in front of a live studio audience.

The audience scores each one and the level of improvement to decide who has changed their tune the most. The winner will win £10,000.

Tune in to watch tone deaf Matt on ITV1 at 4pm.

Pub set to pop up

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to reopen a Marston's pub are holding a 'pop up' pub event to boost their campaign.

The Somerset closed in 2014 and could become a cultural centre run by Oxford-based charity The Wilaya Trust.

Residents refusing to give in are holding the event to show there is support for their cause.

The pub will pop up in Marston Scout Hall, Marston Road on Sunday from 3pm to 7.30pm.

Visit saveoursomerset.org for more.

Homeless shelter demolition work begins for new housing

DEMOLITION work has begun on a former homeless shelter in Oxford.

Lucy Faithful House will be knocked down to make way for 50 apartments at the Speedwell Street building.

Nearly 2,500 people signed a petition calling the facility to be reopened as a homeless shelter but Oxford City Council paid £450,000 to secure the whole property last August.

Demolition is likely to be completed by June and cost about £300,000.

Lucy Faithful House was closed in 2016 after Oxfordshire County Council replaced the hostel with alternative provision at sites across the city.

The city council said the 'very poor quality' building had no viable use so decided to use it towards much needed housing.

Stephen Clarke, head of housing and property services at the authority said: "The city council intends to redevelop the site to provide much needed residential accommodation for the city, which will include 50 per cent affordable housing.

"The proposals are still in the early feasibility stages of development, but we will provide more information as the plans develop over the next few months."

A Green Party spokesperson said it is 'simply outrageous' and a 'tragic joke' that Lucy Faithful House was considered as no longer needed.

Demolition: The former Lucy Faithful House homeless shelter
Picture Google

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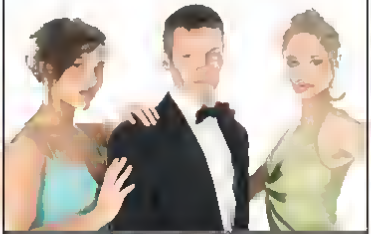
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Flats explosion could not have been 'predicted or prevented'

By George Welch

AN explosion which ripped through a block of flats and killed a man was "not predictable or preventable" a report has found.

Guido Schuette, 46, died in the Valentine's Day blast, believed to be caused by petrol fumes igniting in his flat in Gibbs Crescent on February 14 last year.

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board said in a report published last week that neither police nor mental health services could have stopped Mr Schuette whether the blast was intentional or not.

The independent report concluded: "There was good inter-agency working in relation to the two psychiatric assessments [of Mr Schuette] in 2016 and 2017.

"Even if the fire was deliberate, this incident was not predictable or preventable by mental health services or Thames Valley Police.

"While [Mr Schuette] clearly had outbursts of anger at times, he was not apparently suffering from mental illness...and denied suicidal intent or any desire to harm others."

An inquest in February found the explosion was probably an accident but due to strange behaviour and comments made by Mr Schuette in the days before the blast, an intentional motive could not be ruled out.

According to the report, police visited Mr Schuette on February 10, just four days before the explosion, after a neighbour said he was "shouting and hanging".

Mr Schuette had threatened to set fire to the flats the previous night and officers forced their way into his home at 7.05am to find him sat with two knives.

He was restrained when he lunged at officers.

A thorough mental assessment of Mr Schuette was subsequently carried out but assessors concluded he was not suffering from mental illness and did not need hospital treatment.

Police carried out a 'proportionate' search of his home but did not find evidence of stockpiled fuel, the report added.

The findings highlighted how authorities recognised there was a possible risk of an accidental fire at Mr Schuette's 'cluttered' flat but "this risk did not appear to be imminent and no evidence of large volumes of fuel was found".

A keying error in the electronic system used by the adult mental health team meant no contact was made with Mr Schuette on February 13 and 14.

The full report can be viewed at tinyurl.com/ycc65n3w

Explosion: Guido Schuette was killed in the blast at his flat in Gibbs Crescent

Main picture Alexander Hammonds

InBrief

Purse theft in shop

AN elderly woman had her purse stolen while shopping with her friend at Aldi in Botley Road.

The 86-year-old realised her purse was missing when she left the supermarket.

Police have now released a CCTV image of a man they believe may have 'vital' information in connection with the theft which happened between 11am and midday on March 12.

Contact police on 101 quoting reference number 43180075878 with information.

Lord Mayor's feast

COUNCILLOR Jean Fooks the Lord Mayor of Oxford, is inviting people to attend her charity dinner.

The event will be held at Jury's Inn Hotel, Godstow Road at 7pm on April 27 and will raise money for Response Giving, Mayday Trust and Wolvercote Young People's Club.

Tickets are £45 per person.

For more information and to book tickets, email cvicoffice@oxford.gov.uk

From court to Cotswolds for solicitors

AN Oxford legal practice will get on their bikes to support a charity that cares for sick children.

Oxford-based Royds Withy King is drawing on its network of offices throughout the South West and London to field a record 28 riders at cycling sportive Bike Oxford to raise £500 for SeeSaw.

The charity provides grief support for children, young people and their families in Oxfordshire and was chosen as the legal practice's charity of the year.

Trainee solicitor Krista Holliston said: "As an amateur cyclist and Oxford local, I am excited to take part in such a challenging cycling event in the Cotswolds.

"We are firmly dedicated to both the local community and to having a bit of fun and Iconic Cycling puts on unrivalled events."

Bike Oxford on May 20 is organised by Iconic Cycling Events and championed by national property developer Redrow Homes.

Iconic Cycling Events CEO Richard Best said: "I am delighted that the Royds Withy King team is riding with us again this year and raising money for such a great charity as SeeSaw."

Cycling solicitors: From left, The Royds Withy King team of Krista Holliston Paul Hayward, Monicka Rai, Tim Reid Richard Brooks and Emma Hough

Asbestos restricts classroom use at school

PUPILS are being taught on a part-time basis after a special school in Blackbird Leys was branded 'unsafe'.

Northfield School, which teaches around 70 boys aged 11-18, was closed before Easter after an asbestos ceiling was damaged.

Modified timetables are in operation after specialist contractors, despite deeming the affected area to be safe, judged the school's main buildings unsuitable for teaching and learning.

The school said it was trying to keep disruption to a minimum and was working towards a longer-term solution.

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Protesters express

By George Welch

A CAMPAIGN group wanting to slam the brakes on the 'dangerous' Oxford to Cambridge expressway has launched a major campaign to drive the road away from the city's green belt.

Placards reading fields not fumes', 'trees not tarmac' and 'green belt not commuter belt' were waved as the county-based Expressway Action Group, backed by 34 Oxfordshire parish councils, launched a poster campaign last week.

Co-ordinator Peter Rutt believes too many people are "unaware that these plans will blight their environment forever".

He added, "We are gravely concerned regarding the risks that this project poses to our communities and the environment."

The group which was protesting at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, has not been considered as a stakeholder by Highways England, excluding it from broader discussions about which of the three possible routes would be selected.

Highways England will select the preferred route by July and the road could be built by 2030.

Mr Rutt added, "We know there will be no proper public consultation until after the corridor is selected.

"We are taking the view that as the OxCam Expressway is almost certainly going to be built we must try and influence the

Majority get chosen primary place

MORE than nine out of 10 Oxfordshire children due to start primary school this year have been offered a place at their first preference school.

A massive 92.77 per cent of the 7,064 children who applied have received the news their families were hoping for with 88.57 per cent given a place at one of their chosen schools.

It means that just 102 children have received an offer of a place at a primary school not listed on their application form.

The latest figure for first preference offers announced on Monday is slightly lower than last year's (93.73 per cent) but higher than in 2016 and 2015.

Lucy Butler, Oxfordshire County Council's director for children's services said, "Once again we're delighted to be able to offer the overwhelming majority of families their first preference school, and wish all the children the very best for the coming school years.

"Oxfordshire compares very favourably with other parts of the country on school places and our strong track record in first preference offers is down to that effective forward planning."

Visit tinyurl.com/yb6qn9j5 for more information on the appeals process, how to register on the continued interest list and for late applications.

New heads to take over for new term

NEW headteachers have been appointed at two Wantage schools.

Wantage CofE Primary school and King Alfred's Academy, both run by the Vale Academy Trust, will have new leaders in charge from the start of the next academic year in September.

Andrew Browne, who has been head at St Nicholas Primary School in East Challow for six years, will succeed Clare Morgan at Wantage CofE. Deputy Evy Boehm is acting head teacher in the interim.

Mr Browne said, "I am looking forward to getting to know everyone, to deepening the vision, values and beliefs of the school community and to leading a school where everyone is safe, successful and strong."

King Alfred head teacher Jo Halliday, who took over from Simon Spiers in 2014, announced she was leaving in December and has now stepped down.

New headteachers: Andrew Browne, left and Richard Holroyd, right

She will be replaced by Richard Holroyd who has been headteacher at Langtree School in Woodcote near Wallingford for 12 years. Long-serving teacher Jonathan Smart takes over as acting headteacher.

Mr Holroyd said he "was deeply impressed with the core strengths of the school, and excited by the opportunities to achieve even greater successes in the future".

outcome. We want the least harmful corridor for the environment. If we don't enter the debate, we cannot influence it."

The group was opposed to the expressway project entirely but its members have now accepted that the road will be built.

As a result, EAG says it favours the northern route which would cut through land north of Oxford and use the existing A34. The southern and central options would be 'more costly and do more harm'.

County councillor Kirsten Johnson reiterated the road would have "devastating consequences on the environment for hundreds of years to come".

The Wheatley representative added: "I am not convinced there is a need for this expressway.

"Any growth should be supported by improving existing road networks and investment in good public transportation. Residents have a right to be listened to."

The group is calling on residents to feedback to their MPs, councillors and the government.

Armed robbery at Co-op linked to others in area

POLICE are linking an armed robbery in south Oxfordshire to similar incidents across the Thames Valley.

A knife-wielding thief ran off with an undisclosed amount of cash after raiding the safes from a Co-Op store in Sonning Common, near Henley.

Officers said the burglar entered the Wood Lane shop with the weapon and threatened two members of staff at around 10pm on Sunday, April 8.

He told one of them to take him to the safes and ordered the other to lie on the floor.

The suspect took the money before fleeing towards Peppard Road.

Investigating officer Detective Sergeant Alun Watkins, of Force CID at Abingdon, said it was "a very frightening incident" for members of staff.

The robbery comes after three wanted men raided the Co-Op in Main Road, Long Hanborough on March 25.

On that occasion, two members of staff were forced to open a staff room safe by men armed with a wooden post and a hammer.

Appealing for information on the Sonning Common burglary, Det Sgt Watkins said: "We believe this robbery is linked to a number of similar offences across the three counties of the Thames Valley."

Contact police on 101 quoting reference number 43180104891 with information.

CCTV released Police have issued these images of a man they want to speak to in connection with the raid

Sir Vince visit to homeless charity cancelled

A PLANNED visit to Oxford by the leader of the Liberal Democrats was cancelled on Monday.

Sir Vince Cable was scheduled to stop by for a tour of Aspire homelessness charity in the afternoon with Abingdon and Oxford West MP Layla Moran.

The visit was cancelled due to commitments in the House of Commons where Prime Minister Theresa May gave an emergency statement to the House about the air strikes on Syria.

Organisers hope to reschedule Mr Cable's visit.

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Event centre gets sugar smart with Jamie's help

By George Welch

AN Oxford venue inspired by a Jamie Oliver-backed health campaign is encouraging its staff and visitors to cut down on sugar.

The King's Centre in Osney Mead, has joined the city's Sugar Smart campaign by promising to make it easier to reduce sugar consumption.

The initiative, jointly led by Good Food Oxford, the Jamie Oliver Food Foundation and Sustain, aims to make it easier for people to make healthier choices by limiting the sugary produce less available or less well promoted.

Two free drinking stations have been installed and head chef Max Rapacz is working on a new reduced sugar menu.

General manager Michelle Fernandez said the campaign "is an important initiative that we are proud to support".

She added: "By taking some small and simple steps we hope we will enable people to make healthier choices.

"Hidden sugars are a big issue and as a large venue we believe it is important to do more to provide our visitors and staff with ways to lead healthier lives."

Health experts consider too much sugar and too many foods and drinks high in sugar can lead to weight gain and an increase in the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke and some cancers. It is also linked to tooth decay.

Obesity rates in Oxford are creeping up. In 2015-16, 43,231 GP-registered patients in Oxfordshire were obese, up from 42,936 in 2014-15.

In 2016-17, the percentage of obese children in Oxford of reception age rose to 8.8 per cent, up from 8 per cent the previous year.

During that period, 20.2 per cent of Year 6 children in Oxford were obese, up from 19.2 per cent.

The celebrity chef and campaigner said: "It's brilliant that The King's Centre have joined us in raising awareness about the long-term damage too much sugar can have on our health and empowering us all to reduce it in our diets."

The King's Centre, the largest event space in the county, invests its annual profits into maintaining the building and Oxfordshire Community Churches, also based on site, and its charitable activities.

Smart start: The King's Centre team, from left: Sedia Rogers, Sue Edridge, Jonathan Mcnally, Kirsty Gay, Rachel Parfit from charity Edge Housing with Jon Madeley and Michelle Fernandez from The King's Centre and Hannah Fenton, Good Food Oxford manager

Dragon patcher: The third machine is now in operation on the county's roads

Dragon roars into repairs

ANOTHER pothole-blasting monster has taken to the county roads as more resources are poured into tackling the aftermath of a tough winter.

Oxfordshire County Council has recruited its third dragon patcher which uses a combination of compressed air, heat, bitumen and chippings to repair holes.

The latest conscription, capable of repairing up to 200 potholes a day, means there are now two full-time machines in the county in addition to another shared with Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

Owen Jenkins, the county council's director for infrastructure delivery, said: "It is clear that these machines are having an impact not just in the amount of work they are getting through but also saving money to put into resurfacing.

"The county council, like all councils responsible for roads, has a very limited budget and we have to look for innovative ways to get more value out of every pound we spend."

Repeated cycles of ice, thaws and snow have created poor weather conditions for roads over the past few months.

In the past year the council's own machine, along with the shared dragon, has fixed more than 21,000 potholes.

It is expected that the new one over the next 12 months could fill up to 14,000 more.

Oxfordshire also received a pothole repair fund of £1.8million from the government last month to help fill in the holes.

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Two jailed for roles in child sex exploitation

By George Welch

TWO members of a "despicable" sex gang who imprisoned and abused a young girl have been jailed for a total of 20 years.

Kamran Khan, 36, from Bolton, was sentenced to eight years and Raheem Ahmed, 41, from Oxford, was given a 12-year term at Oxford Crown Court on Monday.

Both men were convicted last month with six others as part of a major five-month hearing into child sexual exploitation in the city.

Khan and Ahmed were sentenced separately from the rest of the group because they were considered to be on the periphery of the group, Judge Peter Ross said.

The court heard that both men imprisoned a girl in Cowley before humiliating her in a "terrifying and protracted" attack.

The court also heard that Khan tried to force another victim, aged 13 or 14 at the time, to perform a sex act.

On another occasion, Ahmed "abandoned" a 14-year old girl by the side of the road after forcing her to perform a sex act.

Victim statements read out in court said they had suffered anxiety and depression as a result of the abuse.

Jailed Kamran Khan, above, and Raheem Ahmad, right, have been sentenced to 20 years in total for their roles in the sex gang

Adrian Foster, chief crown prosecutor for the Thames and Chiltern Crown Prosecution Service, said the men had failed to accept any responsibility for their actions.

In mitigation, Khan and Ahmed's defence barristers said their clients had been opportunists in and were not part of a "child sex gang".

Khan was jailed for a total of eight years made up of three years for the indecent assault and five years for false imprisonment, to run consecutively.

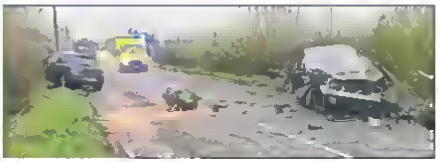
Ahmed was jailed for a total of 12 years, made up of five years for the false imprisonment, two years for one indecent assault and five years for another, all to run consecutively.

Each must also sign the sex offenders register and be subject to a sexual harm prevention order for life.

The six other members of the gang will be sentenced in June.

The eight men were convicted after a trial of more than 20 offences including rape and indecent assault between 1998 and 2005.

The five victims were aged between 13 and 15 when the offences started.



Reminder Three people avoided serious injury after this crash

Rural roads warning after crash

THREE people escaped serious injury in a "potentially life-threatening" crash just outside Thame.

The driver of one of the cars was taken to hospital with leg injuries while the driver and passenger in the other vehicle suffered only minor injuries following the smash on Chinnor Road last Wednesday.

A passing motorist was first on the scene at around 6.30pm and helped the driver with leg injuries out of their vehicle.

The driver and passenger of the other car escaped unaided.

Medically trained firefighters provided first aid to all three before South Central Ambulance Service paramedics arrived. The road was closed and Thames Valley Police is investigating the cause of the crash.

Incident commander crew manager Kevin Morgan said: "This was a considerable impact to both vehicles and fortunately on this occasion the drivers and passengers only suffered minor injuries.

"I would like to take this opportunity to remind all road users to wear their seatbelts and to take extra care whilst driving on rural roads.

"This incident had the potential to be life-threatening and life-changing."

According to the fire service, almost 60 per cent of road deaths in Oxfordshire occur on rural roads.

Yellow lines to be a fixture at station

A TRIAL involving yellow lines near Radley Railway Station to stop commuter parking over spilling into nearby streets has been made permanent.

Train company First Great Western provided the funding for the restrictions which Oxfordshire County Council leader Ian Hudspeth approved at a meeting last Thursday.

County council officers will now liaise with Radley Parish Council to develop additional restrictions to tackle the parking issues.

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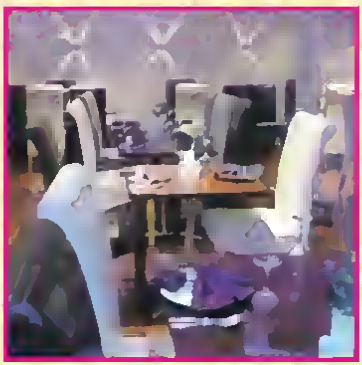

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Cafes inspired to cut plastic

OXFORD cafes riding a wave of enthusiasm for reducing plastic use after the BBC's documentary series Blue Planet II have been awarded for their efforts

Turl Street Kitchen and Jericho Coffee Traders in Oxford were awarded the highest seven stars by Oxfordshire Action on Plastic Pollution for the cafe's plastic avoidance

Oxfordshire APP surveyed more than 50 cafes in Oxford and Abingdon to see how they were reducing plastic use

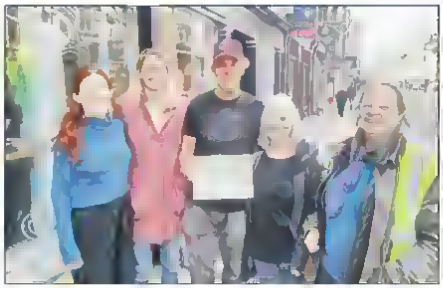
Responses ranged from those who were unaware of the issues to those who were already making strenuous efforts to reduce their plastic use by not stocking plastic straws, or using compostable coffee cups

Hazel Dawe, plastics survey organiser said, "We would like to congratulate them on their achievement and encourage them, and others to do more until single use plastic is eliminated in Oxfordshire.

"James from Jericho Coffee Traders in particular said that we had inspired him to think of new ways of doing without plastic

"The manager of Grand Cafe in the High Street asked how she could get seven stars next time."

Anyone who would like to get involved in Oxfordshire APP can email Hazel at hazeldawe5@gmail.com



Award Jericho Coffee Traders have been given seven stars by Oxfordshire Action on Plastic Pollution for reducing their amount of single use plastic

More people applying to be care workers

A RECRUITMENT drive to encourage more Oxfordshire people into care work has attracted more applicants in just five months than in the previous two years.

The campaign features a number of real life care workers talking about the rewards of the job and why they would recommend the job to others

Figures show the Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers (OACP) website received 84 applications for a variety of care work roles between mid-November 2017 and the end of March 2018, compared with 56 applications in the two years between November 2015 and October 2017

There were 107 new job seekers registered on the site between November 2017 and the end of March 2018, compared with 101 from October 2015 and October 2017.

The county has around 14,250 people working in adult social care but with an ageing population there is an urgent need for more workers

Kate Terroni, director for adult services at Oxfordshire County Council, described care work as a 'fantastic career

She added, "It allows you to make a real difference to people's lives every day and there are opportunities all over the county"

Visit oacp.org.uk/jobs/ to view vacancies.

Police crackdown on speeding

By Owen Hughes

A JOINT police crackdown on speeding drivers has been in force this week reminding motorists that there is "no such thing as safe speeding"

Police in the Thames Valley region have joined with national and European forces in the #ItsNotWorthTheRisk campaign.

The campaign highlights to motorists that travelling at illegal or inappropriate speeds is the single biggest factor in fatal road collisions

Excessive or inappropriate speed was a contributory factor in a fifth of road deaths and more than one in 10 of all serious casualties across Thames Valley and Hampshire

Sgt Rob Heard from the Roads Policing Unit in Hampshire and Thames Valley said "People need to realise it's a speed limit and not a target so it may be more appropriate to travel at a lower speed depending on the road conditions for their own safety

"Drivers can become complacent about roads they are familiar with, causing them to be less alert to the road, and drive at a faster speed.

"A few miles an hour over the speed limit or travelling at an inappropriate speed can have catastrophic effect upon road users and their families many of whom also suffer lasting and profound consequences from collisions where a loved one has been killed or seriously injured

"Excessive speed will reduce the time you have to react to a hazard and further the distance it takes for you to stop."

The risk of death is around four times higher when a pedestrian is hit at 40mph than at 30mph, with young male drivers aged 21 to 29 most likely to speed.

Sgt Heard added "Some people think it is ok to travel just a little over the speed limit.

"However a few miles an hour can make a significant difference to you reacting and being able to avoid a hazard or collision."

Police are also reminding drivers of goods vehicles about restrictions on certain roads

"Our officers are catching far too many van drivers who are not aware of speed restrictions associated with their vehicles it's an excuse," he added.

The campaign started on Monday and runs until Sunday

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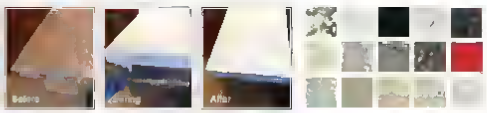

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Sharing skills From left, Maher Attal (Accelerator Physics), Basil Aljamal (Accelerator and Beamline Control Systems), Ali Al-Zoubi (SESAME Programme Manager) Darweesh Foudeh (Accelerator Radio Frequency) and Anas Abaddi (Accelerator and Beamline Personnel Safety Systems)

Middle East mission to Diamond

SCIENTISTS at Harwell are bringing together specialists from the Middle East for a unique project

Diamond Light Source, based at Harwell, welcomed the first four fellows to the newly-created Diamond SESAME Rutherford Fellowship training programme last week.

A £1.5million grant from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will expand Diamond's training and development support of SESAME

Diamond is the UK's synchrotron science facility where electrons are sped up to near light speed, producing a light 10billion times brighter than the sun.

Up to 25 delegates will benefit from training in areas of science and engineering associated with the construction and operation of SESAME, a synchrotron facility in Jordan.

The project will unite members from both Israel and Palestine with colleagues from Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Pakistan and Turkey

Diamond CEO Andrew Harrison said, "SESAME represents a unique project for the Middle East region because of the excellent opportunity to stimulate and support scientific and technical activity training and engagement in the region.

"Because SESAME focuses on areas of local importance – such as water supply, energy health and the environment – we are keen to nurture new talent and share our skills."

Each fellowship will last about 15 months.

Building better lives for pupils

By Owen Hughes

OXFORD and Banbury students built classrooms, prepared trenches and improved drainage for deprived children in Africa.

Health and childcare students from Activate Learning colleges in Banbury, Oxford and Reading returned from the eye-opening volunteering trip to two Kenyan schools on April 7

The students from Banbury and Bicester College, City of Oxford College and Reading College left for Africa on March 27 as part of African Adventures' Meaningful Volunteering Experience

The first project was to paint the classrooms and chalkboard of the Chaddy Mission School in Nakaru.

They also prepared trenches and cleared an area in preparation for an improved drainage system and water tank to be installed.

Students helped build the shell of new classrooms at the second school, Cherish School, also in Nakaru.

Children at the school were also given a toothbrush each and shown how to take care of their teeth.

Early years teacher Vicky Donnelly and English teacher Sylvia Hall led the students during the trip

Sylvia said: "We were made quickly aware that teaching new songs, assisting with classroom activities, repainting of classroom blackboards and just giving individuals attention was very much appreciated and welcomed by the staff and the young learners

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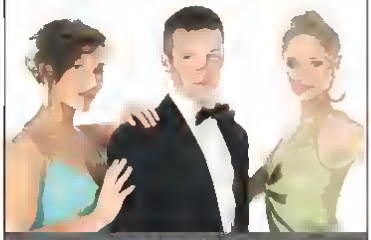

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Learning: The students from Oxford Banbury and Reading helped pupils in two Kenyan schools

"The principal of the school where I was placed informed us that the building work we undertook had saved him thousands of Kenyan shillings."

Vicky added: "It was definitely an eye opener for everyone and a shock realisation that they [students] could eat and drink anything they wanted, pop to the shops or even just go to the toilet or for a shower almost at any time whereas the facilities in Kenya did not allow that.

"All the students worked hard across both the schools teaching, building and playing with the children."

Students said they were surprised that the children in Kenya were so happy when "it seems they have very little"

Students reflected on how they used to take everything for granted, but after the trip, they won't anymore

Activate Learning is a forward thinking education group working across further and higher education, schools, apprenticeships and training.

Carers honoured for sharing lives on farm

By George Welch

A SELFLESS farmer and her mum want to encourage more people to help those in need after being recognised as a pair of unsung heroes

Lindsay Howard-Dean and her mum Rosemary share their Christmas Common home in the Chilterns with people who require extra daily care.

One of them, Mark, has a mild learning disability while Claire who has cerebral palsy and a learning disability moved in when her mother passed away

Lindsay 35 known as Lins, is one of around 80 carers who accommodate and look after people with care needs in their own home, as part of Oxfordshire County Council's Shared Lives scheme.

Both Lins and Rosemary were recently highly commended for their work at the Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers annual awards

Lins, who home schools her son Orson, gets Claire up and breakfasted in the morning and helps Mark plan his day, organising his timings and transport. He also requires emotional support

Extended family: From left, Kate Terroni Oxfordshire County Council director for adult social care Rosemary Claire and Lindsay celebrate the award from the Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers

Claire, who attends day services, spends time with the family on the farm and enjoys the company of the animals including the sheep, cows, horses and donkeys

Lins, whose husband Tim works as an engineer in Witney said. "Both Mark and Claire need support and a happy place to live they are part of our family at our farm in Christmas Common.

"Mark and Claire are effectively an extra uncle and aunt for Orson."

Lins has been part of the county council's Shared Lives scheme for more than a decade. Rosemary, who still helps out even though she's retired, was a shared lives carer for 20 years.

Lins said. "I'm sure there are people out there who'd be interested in Shared Lives if only they knew more. It is very much a vocation. It gives you a bigger family. I've grown up with Claire and Mark and they are part of our family

"It enriches our lives too – I'd strongly recommend it."

For more information go to oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives or call 01865 897971 for more information about becoming a Shared Lives carer

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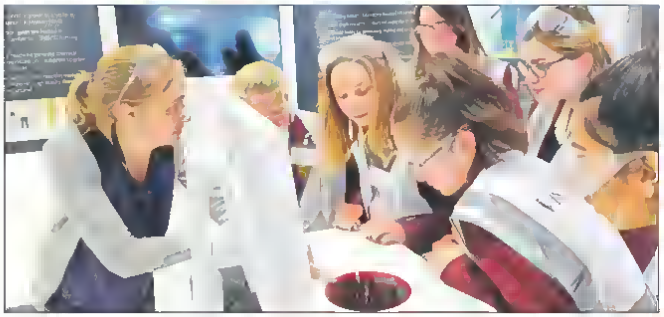

Hands-on experience: Element Six's Kat Atkinson explains innovative diamond applications to girls from Didcot Girls' School

Girls in their element at diamond research

By George Welch

SCIENTISTS of the future gained a hands-on insight into the uses of synthetic diamonds at a specialist science company

Girls from Oxford's Matthew Arnold School and Didcot Girls' School visited Element Six's Global Innovation Centre at Harwell as part of a series of educational visits

Element Six, which describes itself as a world leader in synthetic diamonds and other supermaterials, taught the teenagers about the growth, processing and testing of synthetic diamond.

Three Year 9 Matthew Arnold students have visited Element Six three times in recent months to work with researchers and present findings on diamond applications for mobile phones

They were involved in the Ingenious Project, an awards scheme funded by the Royal Academy of Engineering for projects which engage the public with engineers and engineering.

As part of the interactive learning sessions, the trio made use of a thermal imaging camera to see how diamond compares to glass and silicon when used as a 'thermal window'

They also conducted a series of experiments using a diamond disc and block of ice, highlighting diamond's thermal conductivity

Senior scientist Dr Rachael Ambury said she was delighted to support the girls in their pursuit of science.

She said: "The students have expanded their knowledge of diamond and its possible applications through practical experimentation and laboratory visits and the final presentations demonstrated how much they learnt."

Students from Didcot Girls' School met several of the company's female scientists and enjoyed a tour of the facility

Dr Lynn Nickerson, STEM co-ordinator for Didcot Girls, said: "We found the visit very beneficial as it linked concepts, which the students have recently studied in lessons – the structures and properties of diamond and graphite – to their real-life applications.

"It also allowed the girls to have hands on experience of these materials and to extend their knowledge beyond the curriculum."

Dr Ambury added: "We always seek to work with students in a practical, fun and engaging way, demonstrating our genuine passion for science and innovation."

Final ticket to ride for bus boss

A BUS stalwart with 46 years' service in the industry is preparing for his last stop after announcing his retirement.

Martin Sutton has been in charge of Stagecoach in Oxfordshire for the past 14 years and will step down on July 5

The 64-year-old managing director, who began his career in 1972 in Derby said, "I have thoroughly enjoyed my years in the bus industry and especially my time here in Oxford

"It has been a great privilege to work with so many wonderful people, and I shall leave with many great memories."

A replacement will be announced 'shortly' the company said.

Stagecoach UK Bus managing director for England and Wales, Mark Threapleton, paid tribute to the long-serving Mr Sutton

He said, "I would like to thank Martin for his commitment and the valuable contribution he has made over many years to deliver improvements for bus passengers across Oxfordshire.

Retiring: Martin Sutton is leaving Stagecoach after 46 years

"His vast experience knowledge and passion for the industry means he has been a pleasure to work with and we wish him all the best for his retirement."

Stagecoach in Oxfordshire, which dominates bus services in the county with The Oxford Bus Company, has more than 550 employees, a fleet of almost 180 vehicles and shuttles 19 million passengers each year

Study to treat kidney disease

THOUSANDS of Oxfordshire residents will take part in one of the UK's largest observational studies this month as GP surgeries team up with researchers to help develop new ways of treating chronic kidney disease (CKD)

More then 3 200 patients across 13 surgeries will take part in the two-year study to investigate how people over the age of 60 progress from mild to more severe forms of the condition

It is hoped information from the study could help doctors better identify and treat those at risk.

Chief investigator, Professor Richard Hobbs from Oxford University's Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences which will manage the study, said, "This study will help us to see how many new people are diagnosed with CKD, what happens over an extended period of time to those with mild CKD and what treatments improve or stop the worsening of kidney function.

"By the end we'll have an extensive dataset that will help us to answer important new questions."

Chronic Kidney Disease is recognised by the World Health Organisation as an international health issue and is associated with cardiovascular diseases

InBrief

Tools stolen from van

VAN owners have been reminded to remove valuable items, including tools, from their vehicle when they are not needed.

The warning comes after power and hand tools were taken from a van in Ireton Close, Chalgrove between 8pm on April 8 and 3pm on April 10.

Police said the offender(s) broke in via a side door. The lock on the rear door was also damaged.

Contact police on 101 with information.

Westgate bar opens

A NEW £1.8million restaurant and bar will be the latest to open at Oxford's Westgate next week.

Victors will serve the first dishes and pour the first drinks on Thursday from 8pm.

The Hamptons inspired business will be based on the roof terrace within the shopping centre and will cater for 120 diners.

'New' Tolkien book

JRR Tolkien's The Fall of Gondolin, will be published as a standalone book for the first time.

The book charts the story of an elven city sacked by the Dark Lord, Morgoth.

The author and Oxford don started writing it in 1917 before returning to Middle-earth for The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings.

Charity of the year 2018 – Helen & Douglas House

Runners set to have a RIOT by helping families with their feet

By George Welch

MORE than 100 kind hearted fitness fanatics will walk, jog and run their way around the stunning grounds of Blenheim Palace for the annual 7k fun run later this month.

Matty Saunders, 45, from Carterton, is leading the R I O T Running Club posse and has his sights set on raising £1,000 for terminally ill youngsters at Helen & Douglas House.

This is the third time the R I O T Running Club from JTA Fitness in Carterton, has taken part in the run through the scenic trails and paths of the west Oxfordshire stately home.

This year's run takes place on Sunday, April 29.

Some of the team will take part in the Blenheim 7k run or walk, while junior members will compete in the one mile race.

Members are raising money through sponsorship and a post-run pig roast, raffle, bake off and charity auction at the Masons Arms pub in Brize Norton.

Matty said: "The reason we decided to raise money for Helen & Douglas House was that some of our members have personal experience of the charity and along with the information on the local news with regards to the fact they are struggling for funds, we decided we wanted to offer them some support.

"We particularly like this running event because it is local and inclusive.

"We anticipate having a few runners at the front pushing themselves to win, and then we have our walkers who will also be pushing themselves."

The R I O T Running Club is free and meets every Sunday morning to run and walk in Carterton's Shilton Park.

Alison Hooker, from Helen & Douglas House, said: "Money raised will enable us to provide a comforting cocoon filled with laughter and a peaceful place where families can create happy memories in their last days, weeks, months or years together.

"At the toughest time of their lives we give families the time and space to enjoy the precious moments they have left with each other. We cannot do this without the help of wonderful people like Matty and his runners."

The R I O T team has raised more than £180 so far.

Visit tinyurl.com/y86k4gyc to donate.

Fundraising: R I O T Running Club has set a target of raising £1,000 **Picture.** *Ryan Cowan*

Oxford Guardian & The Oxford Paper Supporting Helen & Douglas House

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Enjoy a West Side Story in the city

TALENTED young performers from across the county are out to wow audiences with a sparkling production of classic musical West Side Story.

Singers, dancers and actors from Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre (OYMT) are replicating the 1960s masterpiece as their annual performance.

The first show was yesterday but tickets are still available for the other performances through to the final night on Saturday.

Many of the theatre group's alumni have progressed in the performing industry including Ed Campbell Bird, Joseph Prowen and Tom Wolstenholme who have all been involved in the West End, in plays and on TV.

Angela Turton, head of Oxfordshire County Music Service, said: "The high reputation of the Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre goes before it and the standard is incredibly good.

"Our young performers always pull out all the stops and put on a memorable show. You will not be disappointed."

The OYMT is made up of students aged between 14 and 19, backed by a band made up of school aged instrumentalists.

Oxfordshire schools taking part include Cheney School, Oxford, Didcot Girls' School, John Mason School, Abingdon, Matthew Arnold School, Oxford, Gosford Hill School, Kidlington, Langtree School, Woodcote, The Cherwell School, Oxford, The Henry Box School, Witney, The Marlborough Church of England School, Woodstock and Wood Green School, Witney.

Tickets can be bought for the show at the Centre for Music, Bayswater Road, Oxford, at wegottickets.com/west-side-story

Blood, sweat and tears for a good cause

PLAYERS from Wheatley Rugby Club might be used to a few cuts and bruises on the field but there were no tears shed when the team gave blood last week.

Players and staff from the club donated blood at the Give Blood NHS station at the John Radcliffe Hospital with smaller bandages applied afterwards than a few of the team are used to wearing.

The Oxford Blood Donor Centre at Headley Way in Headington, relies on donors to attend drop-in sessions and is currently in urgent need of type O- and B- blood stocks.

Donations dropped over Easter and stocks were already low due to the recent bad weather.

Visit https://bit.ly/2IJWnsl or call 0300 123 23 23 to book an appointment.

Donation: Wheatley Rugby Club players helped to boost blood stocks at the John Radcliffe

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Feat of endurance as runners pound

THERE are now just three days until Oxfordshire runners join thousands of others pounding the streets of the capital in the 2018 London Marathon, many ra sing vital funds for local char bes

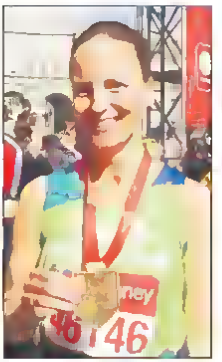
Helen and Douglas House Oxfam Sobell House Hospice Team PACT and Homeless Oxfordshire are among the charities that will benefit from the outstanding effort by the marathoners

More than 75 per cent of the 40,000 runners will be raising money for charity at the world s largest one-day fundraising event on Sunday as they attempt to complete the 26 2 mile course

The long-distance running event, sponsored by Virgin Money first took place in 1981 and was founded by former Olympic champion Chris Brasher and athlete John Disley Since its inception runners have raised a combined total of more than £890million over the past 37 years.

Owen Hughes spoke to just a few of those taking part as they make their final preparations

Catherine Slatter: Oxfam



CONTROVERSY surrounding international aid charity Oxfam has made one Oxford-based runner "more determined" to support the organisation.

Thousands of people cancelled donations to Oxfam, based in Cowley, after claims of sexual misconduct from some of its employees in Haiti.

Oxford resident Catherine Slatter, 51, originally from Melbourne, Australia, has been spurred on to support Oxfam at this year's London Marathon in spite of the scandal.

Catherine said: "Like everyone else when the news broke it was very upsetting and disappointing.

"But the bottom line is I don't want the actions of a few despicable individuals to destroy the years of hard work that people put in.

"Over 99 per cent of the people in that organisation are doing amazing work to help people in desperate need.

"It makes me more determined to support them because I don't want these few idiots to spoil that."

Catherine and her family moved to the other side of the world from Australia a decade ago before settling in Oxford in 2011.

Catherine began running as a hobby at the age of 47 and last year competed in her first London Marathon, also raising money for Oxfam.

She said: "Initially we thought we would move here for two to four years and we loved it so much that in the first year we sold our house and decided we wanted to stay.

"We really love it, especially for running as the climate over here suits me much better because I couldn't really run in Australia as it was too hot."

Catherine hopes to go one better than her last attempt in the marathon after she fell over at the 15 mile mark.

"Last year I loved the experience so much because the crowds and how awesome the people of London are just blows you away.

"It was just incredible but I fell over at the 15 mile mark, so my aim this year is to not fall over."

Catherine has already raised the £2,000 that was pledged to get the Marathon place.

Nearly 100 runners will take on the Marathon to support Oxfam.

To donate to Oxfam go to: https://bit.ly/2GWsFUm

Georgia Fogden-King: Sobell House

A DIDCOT runner has been inspired to race in her first London Marathon to support a hospice that cared for her grandad.

Georgia Fogden-King, 25, originally from Kennington, is hoping to raise more than £2,000 for Sobell House Hospice where her grandad was cared for in October 2013, five days after he was diagnosed with cancer.

Georgia said: "When somebody says that your grandad is going into hospice it just sounds absolutely awful, but the first time I went to Sobell House it was unbelievable.

"The staff are so good and considering it's palliative life care, it's a really nice environment.

Georgia's grandad – known affectionately as 'Da' – was able to enjoy watching football in the common room, spending time in the garden room and even drinking a glass of port in the evening.

She added: "Sobell is run mainly from sponsors and volunteers, so every year I try to do something to raise money for them.

"In 2015 I did a mud run and in both 2016 and 2017 I ran the Oxford half marathon [pictured].

"It wasn't until the end of October that Kevin from Sobell phoned and asked if I would like to run the London Marathon and I thought 'oh my God, what have I done?'

"It all sounds like such a good idea until you get the call to say you can do it."

Despite nerves creeping in after the reoccurrence of a hip injury sustained while running earlier this year, Georgia said she is still quite excited.

"It's something I just never thought I'd be able to do, but just from training I've shown myself I'm a lot stronger than I thought I was," she said.

"Crossing that finish line and knowing how much I've raised for Sobell will be really emotional and I'll probably need a gin."

Kevin Game, Sobell House fundraiser, said, "We need to raise £1 million every year to help fund the running costs of the hospice.

"Community fundraising is vital to us so we're grateful to everyone running for the hospice this Sunday."

Georgia has raised more than £1,650 towards her personal £2,000 goal.

Donations can be made online at: https://bit.ly/2H37bxc

Jessica Lever: VICTA

A MARATHON runner from Culham has raised thousands for a charity that supports blind and partially sighted people.

Jessica Lever, 29, is raising funds at the London Marathon for charity VICTA which supported her friend Mel after she lost her sight at 23 years old due to a rare spinal tumour.

The friends, pictured, met when they were pupils at John Mason School in Abingdon.

Jessica said: "Since January I've gone into full marathon mode.

"But I've also only just gotten over a chest and ear infection after I competed in the Hampton Court half marathon in -1 degrees about five weeks ago.

Jessica, who works for a production company in London, has already raised more than £2,800 for VICTA after hosting two comedy nights and through "the sheer generosity of people who I've never spoken to".

"Thinking about it now is nearly making me cry," she said.

"Mel really is a very special person and so brave to have come through all this so it's a pleasure to be running for a charity that has helped her out."

Donations can be made online at: https://bit.ly/2qDkIlL

Nicola Davis: Helen & Douglas House

A RUNNER is hoping to raise vital funds for the hospice that cared for her friend's daughter who died aged just four days old.

Nicola Davis, 38, will raise money for Helen & Douglas House in memory of her friend's daughter Jasmine who died in her parents Holly and Jason Coe's arms at Helen House in Oxford.

Nicola said: "I have taken on this challenge because of the bravery of my friends Holly and Jason through the most awful time in their life.

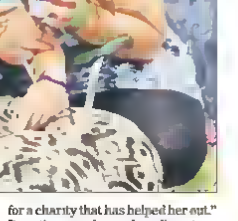
"I had the privilege to visit Helen & Douglas House recently and see first-hand the incredible facilities and care available to children and families when they need it most.

"I'm not a natural runner and this is my biggest challenge to date and in all honesty whilst I'm looking forward hugely to the day I will be glad when I cross the finish line."

Alison Hooker from Helen & Douglas House said the charity relies on "the amazing support of people like Nicola" to provide support to families.

Nicola has raised more than £3,800.

Donations can be made online at: https://bit.ly/2vIlxLp



Katie Truslove: Homeless Oxfordshire

AN Oxfordshire woman has been inspired to run the London Marathon to help tackle the "major problem" of homelessness in the city.

Katie Truslove is aiming to raise £150 for Homeless Oxfordshire after becoming aware of the growing number of homeless people in Oxford in recent months.

She said: "Homelessness is a major problem here in Oxford and the harsh winter we have just had made me particularly aware of the issue. This is the biggest sporting challenge I have ever undertaken and I would appreciate support for Homeless Oxfordshire."

Homeless Oxfordshire provides short-term accommodation for homeless people and supports them in finding independent accommodation and getting back into employment.

Mackenzie Aspell from the charity said: "What Katie and others like her are doing is incredible. Challenges like the London Marathon are epic so we were beyond grateful when we found out somebody chose to run it for us."

Fundraisers can apply for free Bike Oxford and Oxford Half Marathon places to support the charity by emailing: info@homelessoxfordshire.uk

To donate to Katie's JustGiving page, visit: https://bit.ly/2vkV3ea

and fundraising London's streets

Dr Emily Harrop: Helen & Douglas House

A CONSULTANT at Oxfordshire charity Helen & Douglas House is hoping to raise £25 000 for the children's hospice after a silent charity bid of £2,500 secured her marathon place.

Dr Emily Harrop, 45, who lives in Newbury, will take part in her first Virgin London Marathon on April 22 to support Helen & Douglas House.

A bid of £2 500 in the charity's silent auction at a charity dinner at Blenheim Palace last year was enough to secure Emily's place in the fundraising run.

Emily, a consultant in paediatric palliative care, has worked at the children's hospice for the last eight years.

She said: "I find myself overwhelmed on a daily basis, by the courage and determination shown by the children and their families who are cared for by Helen & Douglas House, in overcoming physical and emotional challenges.

"Taking part in this marathon gives me a chance to undertake a small physical challenge of my own, for a great cause which will also increase the profile of a great local charity."

As part of her training, Emily regularly takes part in runs near her home and has run more than 100 miles so far since December.

She was due to take part in the Reading Half Marathon on March 18, which was eventually snowed off.

Undeterred, Emily still ran her half marathon in the snow as training and has run over a hundred miles since December.

Emily said, "I am really excited to be running the 2018 Virgin London Marathon.

"This is a huge challenge for me, as the furthest official race that I have ever run to date is 15 miles.

"I have, as always, drawn inspiration from the children and young people that we look after at Helen & Douglas House, as I have struggled my way through my training over the last 11 months.

"March was the hardest month of training because of the freezing temperatures and the snow."

She added that the children occasionally help her train by riding their bicycles alongside Emily as she runs.

Emily has raised nearly £5,000 towards her target.

Donations can be made online at https://bit.ly/2qwnJfp

To run the 2019 London Marathon in aid of Helen & Douglas House email events@helenanddouglas.org.uk or call 01865 799166

Huge challenge: Dr Emily Harrop with Alex and above in training

Carl Bolton: PACT

A West Oxfordshire runner is part of a team of six limbering up to run the London Marathon on behalf of adoption charity Parents and Children Together (PACT).

Carl Bolton, from Witney, is just under halfway to reaching his target of £1 500 for PACT, which supports hundreds of families every year through adoption and other community projects.

Carl said he chose to run in aid of PACT due to "all the great work the charity does in finding an amazing forever home for children who haven't had the greatest of starts to life."

He added "If I can help just one child find their perfect home from the money I raise then words couldn't describe how much of an honour that would be.

"I'm really looking forward to the excitement and adrenaline of running in front of so many people and doing my family and friends proud."

PACT chief executive Jan Fishwick said "We are so grateful to all six runners who have been working really hard, not only to train for the race but also to raise funds for our work."

To donate visit https://bit.ly/2qG7lla

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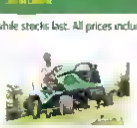

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Out Abo

Duo brought together by their shared love of music

By Josh Cox

CLIVE Gregson's songs have been covered by many artists over the years including Nanci Griffith Mary Chapin Carpenter Kim Carnes and Fairport Convention

Gregson was the founder of Any Trouble a quartet from Manchester who signed to Stiff Records in 1980 and subsequently to EMI America

They made five highly regarded albums before calling it a day at the end of 1984 Around the same time Clive discovered Christine Collister and as a duo they built up a large international following over seven years and five albums From 1985 to 1992 Clive Gregson and Christine Collister were at the very top of the game in acoustic and roots music Rolling Stone Magazine calling them "the state of the art in British folk rock"

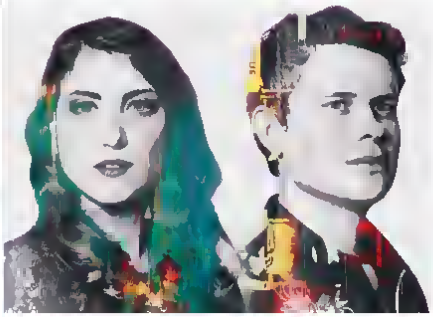
Since then, Clive's illustrious and varied career has continued He has toured and recorded with Richard Thompson Eddi Reader Boo Hewerdine and a reformed Any Trouble In addition to releasing 13 solo albums

In 2015 Clive asked songwriter and singer Liz Simcock to join him on a UK tour a chance to revisit some of the songs from Gregson and Collister days Clive said "Playing shows that celebrate a hugely enjoyable part of my musical career was well overdue It had been a very long time since I performed many of those songs "

Liz was delighted to be asked and said, "I've always been a huge fan of Gregson and Collister and couldn t think of anything nicer to be invited to do They were what got me into writing songs and I think it's a real privilege."

The 2015 tour was a resounding success so much so that Clive and Liz decided to keep the train rolling record a CD of new Gregson songs and playing more shows

The pair will be performing at Wychwood Folk Club Tiddy Hall Ascott Under Wychwood on May 5 at 7.30pm, doors open from 7pm, Tickets are £12 in advance or £14 on the door



Folk pair in harmony

Contemporary folk-acoustic duo Gilmore & Roberts, who combine award-winning song writing with astounding musicianship and their trademark harmonies are preparing for their up and coming UK tour stopping at the Unicorn Theatre Abingdon in May

Nominated three times at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, Katriona Gilmore (fiddle mandolin) and Jamie Roberts (guitar) met while studying at Leeds College of Music and released their debut album in 2008

Since then the duo have toured Canada and mainland Europe played some of the UK's biggest acoustic festivals and won countless accolades for their genre-spanning work.

Their fourth album, Conflict Tourism, which appeared on several end-of year Best Album lists and received national airplay on both BBC Radio 2 & BBC 6music, was released in 2015.

In 2016, the duo marked a decade of performing together with their first live album released 10 years to the day since their first EP launch. Limited to only 1 000 copies and recorded on the duo s 2016 spring tour In Our History – LIVE.

Taking place on May 3 the doors will open at 7pm with music starting from 7.15pm Tickets cost £15.

To book go to musicattheunicorn org uk

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EQUITY RELEASE

HOW EQUITY RELEASE HELPED THIS FAMILY HELP THEIR LOVED ONES

Many parents would dearly love to help their children onto the housing ladder, but many may be concerned as to how they could afford to make a telling contribution

This was the dilemma that faced the Flower family in Oxfordshire. Their eldest daughter was desperate to make a move onto the property ladder. Having recently married, she was looking for a home of her own in which to settle down and start a family, but she simply couldn't afford the deposit. "We hated knowing our daughter was stuck in a rental property with no real prospect of getting into a home of her own in the current market."

As over 55 UK homeowners however, Mr and Mrs Flower realised that there was a way they could help. By releasing a portion of the equity in their property with a Drawdown Lifetime Mortgage they could provide their daughter with a tax-free cash lumpsum to contribute towards her deposit, and they would also have future access to their equity as and when they needed it.

"We heard about lifetime mortgages, and how they could be used to help your loved ones, from a colleague. We looked into it, and our adviser found us a plan that met our needs perfectly. We have been able to contribute to our daughter's first steps on the property ladder and we can take comfort in knowing that we have easy access to a significant cash reserve to face any problems in the future – or, if we want, the money to pay for that dream holiday!"

With a lifetime mortgage, the Flowers are guaranteed to retain full ownership of their property until they both pass away, or both enter long term care. By choosing a mortgage provided by an Equity Release Council approved provider, they can also take comfort in knowing that they will never owe more than the value of their home. One thing it's worth bearing in mind is that accessing some of your property wealth today in the form of a lifetime mortgage may reduce the value of your estate and could affect your entitlement to means tested state benefits.

"We are also pleased that our drawdown plan allows us to retain some control over our interest – we only pay it on the money we withdraw. This helps us remain in control of our finances."

With more than 80 bespoke plans available, why not see if your home could be the secret to helping your family achieve its dreams today?

Could equity release help you? For more information call now and speak to Andy Pike at his Oxford Office - 01865 378718

Andy Pike

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Equity release is a minefield to the average person, but Andy Pike is a great guide to finding your way through and coming out the other end with the information to make the right decision. He was friendly, knowledgeable and enthusiastic and above all totally impartial, he just presented us with all the choices and the final decision was ours. If considering equity release give him a call you won't go far wrong. **- Anthony Richardson, 9th March 2018**

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Telling The Great Untold

By Samantha McGregor

IVOR Novello Award-winning singer-songwriter Scott Matthews makes a return to Oxford playing songs from his new album

Called The Great Untold this record reflects his personal journey of marriage and soon-to-be father hood his songs filled with new hopes and fears and new stories to tell.

Ahead of his gig at SJE Arts. in Iffley Road Oxford on May 15 Scott chatted to us about the album and tour

The Great Untold is his sixth album and he continues to be inspired from "living my life penning tunes about the good and the bad times He started work on it in early 2017 finally recording tracks last November

He said "I've always found solace in the art of making music and I've only ever wanted the listener to hear a song of mine and to have the same feelings as I had when I wrote it.

"To share that connection is all the inspiration I need."

Of the new album, Scott said picking a favourite track was difficult, but the opening single Cinnamon released earlier this month was high on the list.

He said "I re-wrote the lyrics two days before the album was being mastered so it was all very chaotic at the 11th hour

"Sometimes songs appear seemingly out of nowhere fully formed as though they had been gestating for years In my subconscious Cinnamon is one of those songs it's unexplainable and familiar, like it's always been by my side just biding its time waiting to meet its maker."

Scott has been making music for 12 years – in 2003 he supported a friend's band The Other Smiths three years later he was supporting the Foo Fighters He signed to Island Records in 2008

He said, "Those early days were quite the rollercoaster I feel very fortunate in many respects and have highly treasured memories from playing all over the world

"I was lucky enough to win an Ivor Novello award for my first single Elusive too Since then I've been trying to catch up with Paul McCartney as he has 19 Ivor Novellos."

Scott has performed in the city many times and is "excited" about his first gig at SJE Arts

For more information go to sje-oxford.org

Rare Shakespeare play on stage

THEATRE company Cheek by Jowl has weaved its magic with one of Shakespeare's rarest plays and brings it to Oxford later this month.

Pericles Prince de Tyr takes to the stage at the Oxford Playhouse from April 24 to 28. the play's only UK date outside London.

Navigating a stormy sea of pirates kidnappers and goddesses, internationally renowned Cheek By Jowl sail from shore to shore in their exceptional new take on the Bard's play

Striking and vibrant, Pericles, Prince of Tyre is a fable of a man who becomes estranged from those he loves.

A man who slowly and miraculously becomes reunited with them more through fate than by his efforts

It is about the mystery of love, loss and of love rediscovered after a painful and confusing absence. The embers dim and glow in some of the greatest and most moving scenes Shakespeare ever wrote

Following on from 2017's A Winter's Tale, and featuring Cheek by Jowl's French ensemble last seen at Oxford Playhouse in the thrilling Ubu Roi In 2013 Pericles, Prince De Tyr is performed in French with English surtitles.

It is directed by Declan Donnellan who was awarded the Golden Lion of Venice for his lifetime achievement In theatre in collaboration with Nick Ormerod, they produce their first Shakespeare in French.

Tickets for Pericles, Prince De Tyr at Oxford Playhouse start at £10 and are available from the Ticket Office on 01865 305305 or go to oxfordplayhouse.com

Classic dishes full of French flavours

By Karen Neville

A must go place declared my husband as we drove back having enjoyed a superb three-course lunch in Thame

We d dined at The Black Horse which underwent restoration towards the end of last year and while many original features of the 16th century building are evident in the pub brasserie, they mix with modern furnishings and flourishes

This mixing of two elements is evident in the food too with dishes influenced by British pub classics and French brasserie favourites – the pub is part of Raymond Blanc s White Brasserie chain after all

Having been given the choice of the traditionally furnished Barn area or the light and airy Garden Room we opted for the latter and turned our attention to the menu

There is enough choice without it being overwhelming and we soon made our minds up - cheese souffle for me and snails for my husband French touches to the menu very much in evidence there

The cheese souffle came with a warm Cheddar sauce to pour over but I couldn t resist trying the souffle on its own first. It was light and airy and the sauce really was the icing on the cake for want of a better comparison – rich, smooth and creamy the sort of thing you don't want to end.

The Burgundian snails came in a garlic herb butter with crusty bread and while they are definitely an acquired taste my husband devoured the juicy little morsels at anything but snail s pace and was quick to use the crusty bread to absorb the flavoursome butter

Having had our tastebuds well and truly tantalised it was on to the mains and continuing the French theme I opted for the slow-cooked bœuf bourguignon, red wine lardons baby onions mushrooms and smooth mash

Assistant manager Andrew informed me the beef was indeed slow cooked – 23 hours in fact – and judging by the way the meal just fell apart when you looked at it every hour had been well worthwhile

My husband decided to travel from France to India and went for the Malabar fish curry with toasted coconut, grilled king prawn shallot crisps and coconut rice

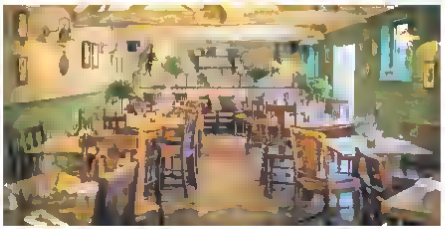
Subtle spices combined with the succulent fish and king prawn to make this a curry fit for royalty

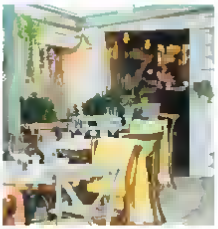
To accompany all these delicious dishes we were recommended the Marlborough Vidal Estate Sauvignon Blanc and true to the New Zealand sauvignons it was zesty and crisp and perfectly chilled

Taking care to leave room for dessert and as the sun glinted through the glass roof, hinting at warmer days to come I chose the summer berry Pavlova with chantilly cream while my husband who loves anything coconut went for more coconut rice, this time as pudding with passionfruit coulis mango sorbet and a coconut crisp

Both choices proved to be the perfect way to finish our respective lunches and judging by the satisfied looks on the faces of our fellow diners they had enjoyed their meals as much as we had

It that continues The Black Horse will rein in diners old and new



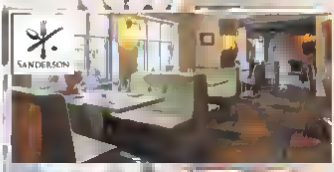


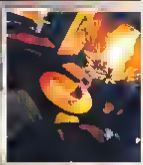
Clockwise from left, the Malabar fish curry light and airy Garden Room coconut rice pudding and the oak-beamed Barn

COMPETITION

THE CHEQUERS AT BURCOT

Using locally sourced ingredients, award winning head-chef Steven Sanderson has a menu for everyone...





To be in with a chance of winning one of two generous £50 vouchers to use when booking a table in advance at the Chequers at Burcot, all you need to do is log onto our Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/OxfordshireGuardian then please be kind and share our competition leaving just a comment saying 'Done' then the two lucky winners will be contacted on the closing date of the 30th April 2018. Good Luck!

Telephone: 01865 407771

E-mail enquiries@thechequers-burcot.co.uk

Sanderson Pubs Ltd, The Chequers at Burcot, Abingdon Road, Burcot, Oxon OX14 3DP

The Chequers at Burcot stands just off the A415, South of Oxford

Opening times:

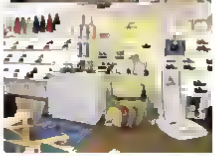
Tuesday to Saturday 12pm–11pm

Food served from 12pm–2.30pm and 6.15pm–9.00pm

Sunday: 12pm–8pm Food Served from 12pm–5.45pm

foot foundation

Do your feet need a break?



The first step to total foot comfort is understanding a little more about your feet.

At the Foot Foundation we use **iStep** the most revolutionary digital foot scanning technology to measure your arch type and pressure points.

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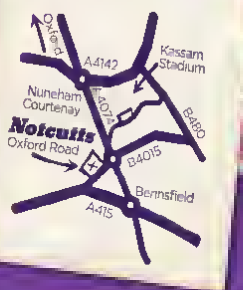

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Competition

WIN a kid's VIP celebration package at Hollywood Bowl!

We've teamed up with the folks at Hollywood Bowl, Ozone Leisure Park, Oxford to offer you the chance to win a kid's celebration package for six children, including one game of VIP bowling, a kid s meal and mocktail each, UV wristbands and a framed photo of the group!

Whether you're looking for a perfect after school treat birthday party or any other celebration – Hollywood Bowl has got it covered with great food, drinks, awesome amusements and of course bowling.

So what are you waiting for? Let the good times roll!

For more information check out the Hollywood Bowl website and sign up to the newsletter to receive all the latest news and exclusive offers straight to your inbox.

Closing date Tues, May 8

Win tickets

For your chance to win this awesome package, just answer the following simple question

Q: Where in Oxford is Hollywood Bowl located?

To enter this competition just email your answer to:

competitions@theoxfordpaper.co.uk

hollywood bowl

Terms and conditions

1. Prize winners are entitled to one game of bowling for six children, including VIP lanes where available, kid's meal and mocktail per person, UV wristbands and a framed photo of the group at Hollywood Bowl Oxford.
2. Valid until August 2018
3. Closing date for entries is Tuesday May 8, 2018 entries submitted after this date will not be counted.
4. Judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into
5. Prize winners will be contacted within 30 days of being notified that they are a winner by email, with details of how to claim their prize
6. Supply of your contact email address is required to be eligible to enter the competition. It will be used by Hollywood Bowl and its agencies to contact you if you've won.
7. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.
8. Reservations are subject to the centre's availability and must be booked in advance and at the centre manager's discretion
9. Prize is valid from Monday to Friday only
10. Prize is not valid during May school holidays and bank holidays and must be booked in advance.
11. No cash alternative.
12. Entrants must be over 18 years of age
13. Promoter: The Hollywood Bowl Group 31 Mark Rd Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 7BW
14. Usual Promoter details apply

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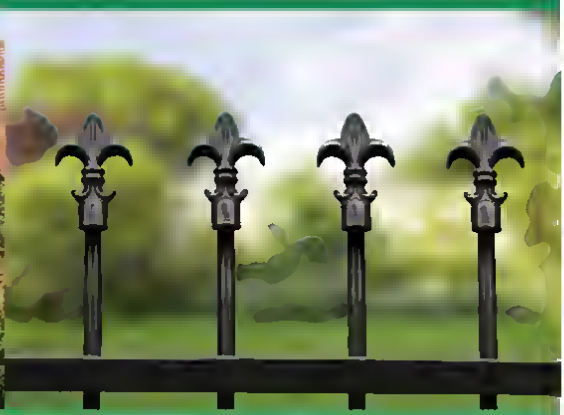

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CROSS CODE

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	A					S						
14	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**
C												

Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

SERENADE ON A BOARD

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically

Quiz Challenge

1. Prior to the adoption of the Euro, which coin was equal to 1/100th of a French franc?
2. At which Clydebank-based shipyard were the Lusitania, HMS Hood, Queen Mary and QE2 all built?
3. The luxury crystal company Swarovski features which bird on its logo?
4. Regarding a mobile phone, for what does the letter S in SIM, stand?
5. Also known as baking soda, which chemical compound has the formula $NaHCO_3$?
6. Which appropriately-named British fashion designer created the kipper tie in 1966?
7. Played on TV by Rufus Sewell, what was the name of the Italian detective created by Michael Dibdin?
8. In which TV series concerning the ups and downs of romance, does James Nesbitt play a character named Adam Williams?
9. In the phonetic alphabet, name the only month of the year that represents a letter
10. "Sufferin' succotash!" in the catchphrase of which animated cat?

NONAGRAM

S	A	W
U	K	E
C	R	T

How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines

32 Good, 38 Very Good, 45 Excellent.

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another version is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber

FIVE ALIVE

JR	UA	RB	AO	TL
AU	■	EL	■	RA
DP	RL	OA	IV	NE
IA	■	QW	■	EK
SD	EI	NS	HD	YS

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

SUDOKU

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9 and so must each 3 x 3 box.

Easy

1	3		4	6				
2	8	6			1			5
	4				5		3	
3				9	8	2	7	
			6	4				8
8	7					5		6
		3	7			1		
5	1	8					6	2
6				8				

Hard

		8		3		2		
2			9			4		1
		7			5			
7		5			2			4
				4				6
						7	5	
4							3	
				8	6			
	9		4				8	

EQUALISER

	4		12	
8	○	4	○	4
	4		4	
7	○	4	○	1
	5		1	

Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same. Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

All puzzles on this page are supplied by Sirius Media Services. To try more of our puzzles interactively online go to www.puzzledrome.com

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Foreboding new met in another form (12)
9 Bird with an incomplete crest ... (5)
10 ... a United Kingdom bird (7)
11 Singular item intended, say, to be left over? (7)
12 The French heavyweight will reveal a vowel (3,2)
13 She is not likely to be related to another 22 Across (6)
15 Lower status when meandering about with no call (6)
18 Some more becoming skilful on the fiddle (5)
20 Alternatively in the river it is a rushing stream (7)
22 Either way she is a devout woman (3)
23 In clear it turned out to be true to life (5)
24 Top striker attaining meteoric fame? (8,4)

DOWN

2 Brightly coloured rambling man going round the altar screen (7)
3 Sudden increase is not on with the ship's doctor (5)
4 Bareness of untidy arrangement (6)
5 Cold sheet not on the bird (3,4)
6 Absolutely correct to enforce payment (5)
7 Leave the sign where it is and ignore it (4,2,6)
8 Domestic ties? (5-7)
14 Do not include Rex in extract (7)
16 Treacle upset Agamemnon's daughter (7)
17 Make a great effort to filter through (6)
19 It is instrumental to prohibit the girl (5)
21 Complains bitterly about the birds (5)

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Accept as true (6)
[illegible] Missing (4)
8 Drowned valley (3)
9 Certainly (2,4)
10 Root plant (4)
12 Small restaurant (6)
14 Sesame (5)
17 Conflagration (4)
18 Reverie (8)
20 Given too much in wages (4)
24 Ship's vertical spar (4)
25 The present time (6)
26 French novelist (5)
28 Greater part (4)
30 Huge (4)
31 Slack (3)
32 In this place (4)
33 Entirely (6)

DOWN

2 Part of sleeve (4)
3 Raw beginner (inf.) (4)
4 Repaired by sewing (5)
5 Set of three (4)
6 Work (6)
7 Spanish mountain range (5)
11 Axle (5)
12 Desiccated (4)
13 Quick (5)
14 Curious (3)
15 US state (5)
16 Veil (5)
18 Secret agent (3)
21 Noise level (6)
22 Embitter (8)
23 Sudden shelter (6)
24 Class of animal (6)
27 Subsequent (4)
28 Head sculpture (4)

SOLUTIONS

QUIZ CHALLENGE: 1 Centime 2 John Brown (& Company) 3 Swan 4 Subscriber (Identity Module) 5 Sodium bicarbonate 6 Michael Fish 7 Aurelio Zen 8 Cold Feet 9 November 10 Sylvester

CROSS CODE

EASY SUDOKU

HARD SUDOKU

MAGIC SQUARE

WORD PYRAMID: Hearsay evidence

EQUALISER

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

QUICK CROSSWORD

NONAGRAM

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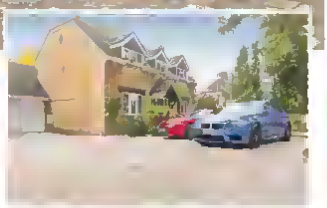

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Saturday April 21

BBC 1

MORNING

10.00am Saturday Kitchen Live
11.30am The Hairy Bikers Asian Adventure

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Football Focus
1.00pm BBC News
1.10pm The London Marathon, My Reason to Run
1.40pm Snooker
4.30pm BBC News
4.40pm Regional News and Weather
4.50pm Match of the Day Live

EVENING

7.15pm Pointless
8.00pm The Queen's Birthday Party
9.00pm Mrs. Brown's Boys
10.10pm BBC News
10.30pm Match of the Day
11.00pm Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights
11.20pm The Button
11.50pm The Recruit
1.40am Weather for the Week Ahead
1.45am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

MORNING

7.10am The Fens Factor
7.30am The Designers
8.00am Absolute Genius: Monster Builds
8.30am Beyond Bionic
9.00am Robot Wars
10.00am Snooker

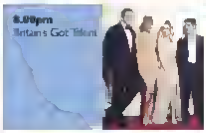
AFTERNOON

12.00pm Wanted Down Under
12.30pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor
1.30pm Britain's Biggest Warship Crewing Up
2.30pm Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge
3.30pm Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge
4.30pm Final Score
5.15pm Money for Nothing

EVENING

6.00pm Antiques Road Trip
7.00pm Snooker
8.00pm The Forest
8.30pm Dad's Army
9.00pm Imagine...Al Halsenmus
10.00pm Testament of Youth
12.00am World Championship Snooker: Highlights
12.50am World Championship Snooker - Extra
2.50am Civilisations
3.30am That's BBC Two
6.05am Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein

ITV



MORNING

8.00am Thunderbirds are Go
8.25am ITV News
8.30am Zoe Ball on Saturday
9.25am Saturday Morning with James Martin
11.20am Nanny McPhee

AFTERNOON

1.20pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.30pm ITV Racing: Live From Ayr
4.30pm You've Been Framed!
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING

6.00pm ITV Evening News
6.15pm ITV News London
6.30pm Ninja Warrior UK
7.30pm Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule
8.00pm Britain's Got Talent
9.20pm The Keith and Paddy Picture Show
9.50pm ITV News
10.10pm Private Benjamin
12.15am Change Your Tune
1.08am Jackpot247
3.00am Babushka
3.30am ITV Nightscreen
6.00am Sporty

Channel 4

MORNING

7.05am King of Queens
7.55am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.55am Frasier
10.30am The Big Bang Theory
11.55am The Simpsons

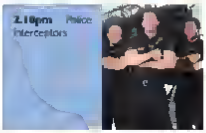
AFTERNOON

12.25pm The Simpsons
12.50pm The Simpsons
1.25pm Come Dine with Me
2.25pm A Place in the Sun
3.25pm A Place in the Sun
4.30pm Location, Location, Location
5.35pm The Secret Life of the Zoo

EVENING

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm The Restoration Man
8.00pm Britain's Most Historic Towns
9.00pm Dirty Grandpa
11.00pm Columbiana
1.00am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
1.30am Hollyoaks Omnibus
4.00am Building the Dream
4.55am The Question Jury
5.30am Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star
6.15am King of Queens
6.40am King of Queens

Channel 5



MORNING

9.05am Shimmer and Shine
9.25am Digby Dragon
9.40am Peppa Pig
9.50am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.25am The Gadget Show
11.15am Police Interceptors

AFTERNOON

12.10pm Police Interceptors
1.15pm Police Interceptors
2.10pm Police Interceptors
3.10pm The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door
4.05pm The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door
5.05pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

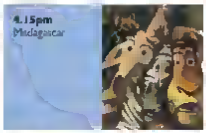
EVENING

6.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
7.00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook
8.00pm The Dead Sea Treasure Map
8.55pm 5 News Weekend
9.00pm Football on 5
10.00pm Football on 5
10.30pm Week's Deadliest Weather Caught on Camera
11.30pm Criminals Caught on Camera
12.00am Super Casino
3.10am The Yorkshire Vet
4.00am Made in Yorkshire
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Divine Designs

Sunday April 22nd

TOP TV

BBC 1



MORNING

7.30am Match of the Day
8.10am Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights
8.30am The London Marathon

AFTERNOON

2.00pm BBC News
2.15pm Sunday Politics
3.30pm Songs of Praise
4.05pm It'll Be All Right On The Night
4.15pm Madagascar
5.35pm BBC News
5.50pm Regional News and Weather

EVENING

6.00pm The Big Painting Challenge
7.00pm Countryfile
8.00pm Antiques Roadshow
9.00pm The Woman in White
10.00pm BBC News
10.20pm Regional News and Weather
10.30pm Match of the Day 2
11.30pm Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights
12.00am The Woman in Football Show
12.35am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.40am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

7.30am The Beechgrove Garden
8.00am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
9.00am The Andrew Marr Show
10.00am Snooker

12.15pm MOTD2 Extra
1.00pm Gardeners' World
2.00pm The London Marathon
2.30pm Snooker

6.00pm Nature's Biggest Beasts
7.00pm Athletics
8.00pm In at the Deep End
9.00pm My Year with the Tribe
10.00pm Famalam
10.25pm Joe Lycett: That's the Way A-ha A-ha, Joe Lycett
11.25pm World Championship Snooker Highlights
12.15am World Championship Snooker - Extra
2.15am Question Time
3.15am Holby City
4.15am This is BBC Two

ITV

8.25am ITV News
8.30am Zoe Ball on Sunday
9.25am Love Your Garden
10.00am Peston on Sunday
10.50am Ninja Warrior UK
11.55am ITV Lunchtime News

12.05pm Britain's Got Talent
1.25pm Britain's Got More Talent
2.25pm Britain's Brightest Family
3.00pm The Queen's Green Planet
4.00pm Change Your Tune
5.00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special

6.00pm Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule
6.30pm ITV Evening News
6.45pm ITV News London
7.00pm Little Big Shots
8.00pm The Durrells
9.00pm The Good Karma Hospital
10.05pm ITV News
10.20pm Peston on Sunday
11.20pm 100 Year Old Driving School
11.50pm The Time Now Year
12.40am Jackpot247
3.00am British Superbike Championship Highlights
3.50am ITV Nightscreen

Channel 4

7.05am Everybody Loves Raymond
7.30am Everybody Loves Raymond
7.55am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.25am Eat the Week with Iceland
9.30am Sunday Brunch

12.30pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
1.30pm The Simpsons
2.00pm The Simpsons
2.25pm The Simpsons
2.55pm Dr Seuss' the Lorax
4.35pm Lincolnn, Lincolnn, Location
5.35pm Grand Designs

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Escape to the Chateau
8.00pm The Crystal Maze
9.00pm Homeland
10.15pm Gogglebox
11.10pm Easy A
12.50am Kohsan 2
3.00am KOTV Rowing Weekly
3.25am Mobil 1 the Grid
3.50am Come Dine Champion of Champions
4.45am Building the Dream
5.40am Kirstie's Vintage Gems
6.00am Countdown

Channel 5

8.55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.10am Shimmer and Shine
9.20am Digby Dragon
9.25am Peppa Pig
9.55am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.30am Football on 5

12.00pm Britain's Greatest Bridges
12.15pm Police Interceptors
1.15pm Police Interceptors: Special Edition
2.15pm Dances with Wolves
5.45pm Pearl Harbour

6.45pm 5 News
6.50pm Pearl Harbour
8.55pm 5 News Weekend
9.00pm Diana to Meghan: Royal Wedding Secrets
10.00pm The Big Wedding
11.00pm 5 News
11.05pm The Big Wedding
11.40pm Pranks Make You Laugh Out Loud
12.30am Fall Army
1.00am Super Casino
3.10am The Body in the Freezer: Countdown to Murder

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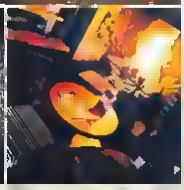

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If after all that food you still have room for more, take a look at our dessert menu! Our house specialty is the Hot & Cold Mess, ask the team about it next time you visit!

Our Sunday menu changes weekly however we will always have our staple Roast Beef, Chicken, Pork & Lamb – Please note reserving a table is highly recommended on Sunday afternoons!

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Why would an Oxford landlord sell her properties?

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

I'm not often surprised to be asked a question by one of my landlord clients...but I am finding myself asked the same question by lots of landlords - client and non-client alike. For most of those who have asked this question...the answer seems to me to be so glaringly obvious I'm surprised it's been asked. So, what a the question?

Should I sell one or more of my portfolio given the changes to mortgage interest rate relief?

One of my favourite clients posed this question recently and I know she won't mind me using her to illustrate why I am so surprised at being asked in the first place.

The landlord in question owns two properties...one that was bought in 2005 and the other in 2011. According to Hometrack's City Index for Oxford, properties have risen on average by 51% since 2011 and by 80% since 2005. Of course, much of the gain between 2005 and 2011 was wiped-out by the credit-crunch which also triggered increased demand for Oxford rental properties from people struggling to secure the mortgage needed to buy.

My client bought the property in 2005 for £235,000 which was pretty much the average house price. It is now worth £400,000. That's growth of 70%...some way below the Oxford average over the same period. The property has new tenants paying £1,625pcm giving a return on investment of 8.3% per annum. In aggregate – taking into account the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) in capital value of 4.53% and the 8.3% gross rental yield over the next 12 months – the property is delivering a gross return of nearly 13% per annum.

She bought the second property in 2011 for £265,000 and it is worth £435,000 today. That total growth of 64% which is well above the Hometrack average for Oxford. That's a CAGR of 8.61%! The rent during the coming 12 months will be £1,625 giving an annual return on investment of 7.4%. Taken together this property is delivering a gross return of 16% per annum.

So...two assets one of which is yielding a 13% annual return and the second of which is delivering a 16% annual return. At a time when the bank of England base rate is STILL at a quarter of 1%, building society accounts are yielding 1 to 2% per annum, and stock markets are running scared of Donald Trump's global trade war-mongering, a solid, reliable, locked-in 13% to 16% return on investment is tough to beat.

One final thought – if you have assets in a market where the costs of re-entry are now so high (given the average price of Oxford property and the 3% Stamp Duty surcharge) why would you sell? Unless you need the capital or know how you will invest it as securely and for a higher overall return, please, please, please recognise the value of the assets you own.

For further comment on Oxford property market visit www.Oxford-Property&log.co.uk

A new home fit for champions at Abbotts Meadow

for immediate release

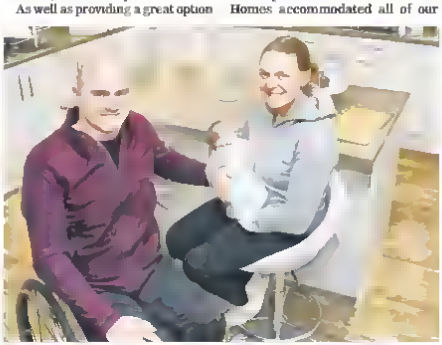
With the view to settle down and start a family two wheelchair tennis champions found everything they were looking for in their new and specifically adapted David Wilson Homes property at Abbotts Meadow in Steventon.

Jordanne Whiley (25) and Marc McCarroll (32) moved to the Barnett Road development from West London and have recently become parents following the birth of their son, Jackson, earlier this year.

As well as providing a great option for starting family life, their new Oxfordshire home was modified by David Wilson Homes to meet their day to-day requirements. The home-builder helped to fit a stairlift, in addition to ramping the side door for wheelchair access.

Jordanne said: "We wanted a new start and our home in London wasn't really suitable for children.

"The Sales Advisers were so friendly and helpful throughout the whole process and David Wilson Homes accommodated all of our needs with the house."



000_0631 DWHS – Jordanne, Jackson and Marc in their new kitchen

Jordanne is a 10-time Grand Slam champion and two-time Paralympic bronze medallist, whilst Marc is a retired Paralympian, British Open and Great Britain World Team Cup winner who recently began coaching Jordanne.

They chose the Stowe style house which is a five bedroom property, perfect for growing families.

Jordanne added, "Moving from a five bedroom house, we wanted the same, or bigger amount of space. This is going to be our forever home so we wanted to make sure we had the room for more children in the future.

"We chose to buy with David Wilson Homes because of the properties available and it has a reputation for top quality housing."

The couple is now part of a thriving community at Abbotts Meadow, located amidst beautiful countryside in a traditional, close-knit village.

Jordanne said, "Abbotts Meadow is lovely. We love the local area and the community vibe here, especially the amount of support and activities for young families.

"Everyone at the development is so nice and one of the neighbours even held a party for all the newcomers just days after we moved in. I think we will become good friends over time.

"It really feels like home and we are very happy here."

Rob Allen, Sales Director at David Wilson Homes Southern, said, "We are delighted to hear how well Jordanne and Marc have settled in at Abbotts Meadow and we'd like to congratulate them on the birth of their son, Jackson.

"Our homes at the development suit the needs of a range of buyers and moving schemes such as Part Exchange and Help to Buy provide valuable assistance for those looking to purchase their dream home."

Abbotts Meadow currently has a range of two, three and five bedroom homes available with prices starting from £355,000 in a sought-after location which offers strong transport links and excellent schooling options within the local community.

PROPERTY WEEKLY

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GROVE A large well presented detached home with driveway parking and a detached garage. Spacious entrance hall with double doors opening into the substantial living room which runs the length of the property. EPC Rating D

£350,000 Wantage office 01235 772670

CHOLSEY A charming 2 bedroom semi-detached property set on a pretty lane with an impressive plot in the very heart of Cholsey, with the train station just 0.4 miles away. EPC Rating C

£335,000 Wallingford office 01491 833323

ABINGDON An outstanding second floor two double bedroom apartment with a balcony off the living room. Centrally located and in superb condition throughout with lift access plus allocated parking. EPC Rating C.

£285,000 Abingdon office 01235 526907

WANTAGE A ground floor 45% shared ownership apartment within walking distance of Wantage, accommodation includes open plan kitchen/living room, two bedrooms, bathroom, and allocated parking. Shared ownership qualification necessary please call for details. EPC Rating C.

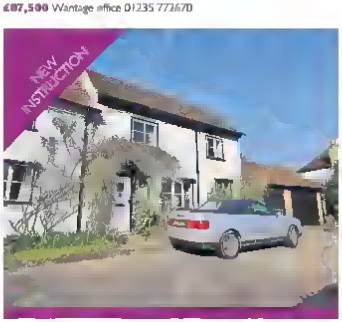
£87,500 Wantage office 01235 772670

MILTON A beautifully maintained four bedroom detached house with double garage in Milton Village on the outskirts of Didcot. The A34 is within one mile and Didcot town centre with mainline railway station is within easy reach. Offered unfurnished and available now. EPC Rating D

£1,700 p.c.m + Fees Didcot office 01235 811371

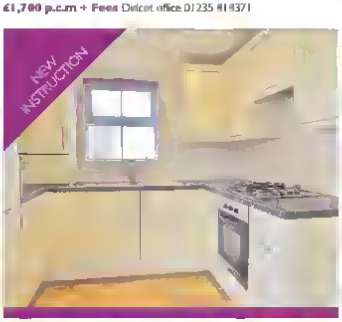
OXFORD HMO ready and available for professionally sharers only. Features include three double bedrooms, an open-plan living room with modern fitted kitchen, main bathroom, en-suite shower room and a ground floor WC. Furnished. Available May. EPC Rating D

£1,550 p.c.m + fees Abingdon office 01235 526907



EAST HENDRED A fantastic Grade II listed semi-detached cottage with two double bedrooms located in the highly desirable village of East Hendred. Garage. On street parking. Flexible furnishings. Available now. EPC Rating Exempt

£1,200 p.c.m + fees Wantage office 01235 772670



ABINGDON An executive first floor two bedroom apartment conveniently situated for access to Abingdon Business Park and Milton Park. Allocated Parking and Visitors Spaces. Unfurnished. Available June. EPC Rating B

£1,025 p.c.m + fees Abingdon office 01235 526907

ABINGDON A two bed mid-terraced house with a fitted kitchen with appliances, reception room with French doors leading out to an enclosed rear garden; and a family bathroom. Unfurnished. Available now. EPC Rating C

£950 p.c.m + fees Abingdon office 01235 526907

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CROWMARSH GIFFORD Located in the most discreet position this grade II listed two bed detached residence sits on 2.4 acres which is a combination of paddocks and gardens with 250ft river frontage mooring rights, stables and workshops. EPC Rating Exempt
£1,000,000 Wallingford office 01491 833323

WALLINGFORD A detached 3 bed bungalow modern kitchen and a large open plan living space and conservatory aswell as ensuite and bathroom. The rear garden is well maintained with lots of different areas to sit and relax. Garage and parking. EPC Rating E
£675,000 Wallingford office 01491 833323

NORTHMOOR A unique opportunity situated in a tranquil rural setting. Offering huge potential to extend and far reaching views across open countryside towards the River Thames. Generous off road parking plus a single garage. EPC Rating C
£599,950 Abingdon office 01235 526907

UPTON A four bedroom grade II listed period cottage nestled in the heart of this sought after semi rural village and set on a generous plot. EPC Rating Exempt
£599,950 Didcot office 01235 818371

ABINGDON A four double bedroom family home occupying a generous plot nestled in the corner of this highly desirable cul-de-sac overlooking green space and a brook. With ample driveway parking a double garage and a sizeable garden. EPC Rating D
£475,000 Abingdon office 01235 526907

HARWELL The 3 bedroom Gosford will appeal to first time buyers, couples and families looking for a little extra space. EPC Rating Awaiting
£328,000 prices from Didcot office 01235 818371

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Journey to a galaxy far, far away...

By Tony Yates

Welcome to this weeks review of the Audi S3 A car with so much power that I'm pretty sure it could power The Millennium Falcon.

Power & efficiency

The S3 I had on test was powered by a 310PS 2 0 litre TFSI turbocharged petrol engine which produces blistering responsiveness along with the added bonus of 400Nm of torque 0-62 mph comes in an eyeball wobbling time of 4.6 seconds, yet it still managed to return a combined fuel consumption of 42 8 mpg. Plus flat out the S3 is capable of 155mph.

So, fast is it? Well, I will let you into a little secret. Don t let the S3 feel you. The engine is really powerful and ferocious In fact, I'm pretty sure given the chance it would quickly break free from that Audi straight jacket fitted under that bonnet whilst hastily making a getaway to the nearest race track. I have got to be honest here so escaping inmate at The Arkham Asylum has got nothing on this animal when it comes to roaking a break for it.

On the road:

As you would expect the S3 handling is pretty much perfect, thanks to the utter brilliance of the Audi engineers. I have been in many fast cars, but the suspension in the S3 has been set up in such a way that any road or any corner feels so effortless at pretty much any speed that takes your fancy (roads permitting of course)

As for the ride, well it can be quite harsh. Thankfully though, there are various buttons that you can press in the hope that you find the setting that's a little more refined. If you do decide to engage WARP drive and stick it into the corners – you can relax knowing you will safely come out the other side still pointing in the same direction as you went in mainly due to the fact that it has the brilliant Audi Quattro all-wheel-drive system fitted, which is just a masterpiece of utter brilliance and witchcraft.

Of course, this being the 'S3' means it also comes with sports suspension which has been lowered by 25mm giving it an even more hunched down look.

Safety & technology

As you would expect from Audi, the cabin materials are exceptional quality and this runs right through the veins of the S3 There is even more good news because on the inside you get pure Audi quality throughout the interior which includes fine Nappa leather seating. Also, because this was the 'Black Edition' you get additional exterior touches such as; Black radiator grille, window trims and rear diffuser insert. You also get instrument dials with the 'S3' logo And, privacy glass – dark tinted rear and rear-side windows from B-pillar backwards and Black door mirrors

There's also plenty of standard equipment – like Air-con, cruise control, dual zone climate control, automatic wipers, Bluetooth handsfree reversing sensors, tyre pressure monitoring, a leather steering wheel, 18" '5 – arm turbine' design alloy wheels which have been fitted with 225/40 R18 tyres dual-branch oval twin tailpipes in chrome-plated finish, brake calipers painted in black with S3 logo at the front, Audi Beam – uses LEDs to project the Audi logo onto the ground as you exit your S3 and a cracking Bang & Olufsen sound system, ready to play all those songs from the likes of; The Beatles, The Mersey Beats and The Lightning Seeds.

There is also an abundance of driver assistance systems fitted to the S3 which covers a wide range of functions, all combining an intelligent combination of different technologies to enhance safety comfort and efficiency

To sum up

I like the Audi S3 a lot because it's poised, controlled, and really fast Plus, it's possibly the most fun I have ever had in an Audi. Price from. £36 040 – not including extras

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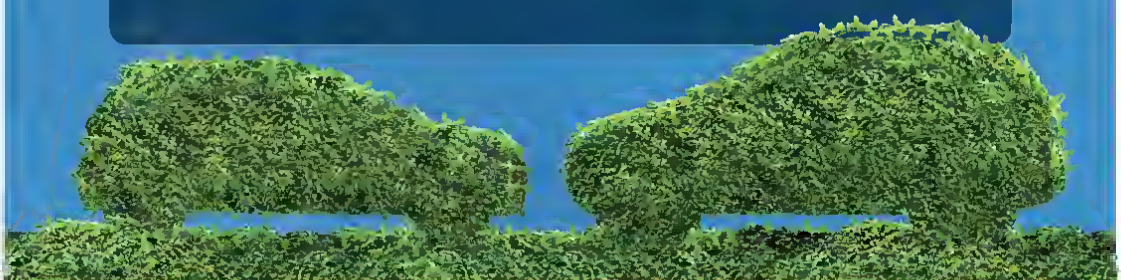

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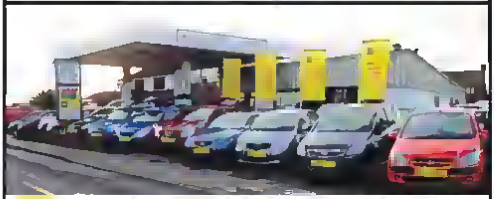

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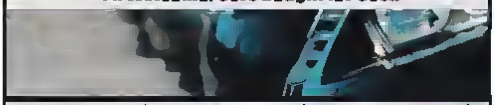

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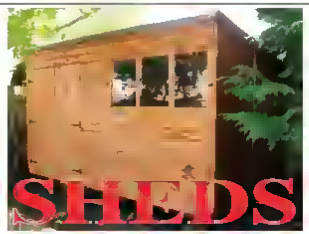

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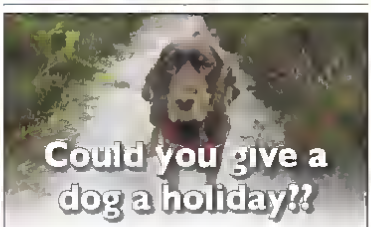

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Nico nicks another good finish

Good start Nico Hulkenberg has finished P7 or higher in all three races so far this season **Picture:** *Renault Sport Formula One Team*

By George Welch

F1 - Renault

MR Consistent Nico Hulkenberg believes Renault are worthy of their best of the rest title following another sixth placed finish at the Chinese Grand Prix.

The German, one of just five drivers to score in all three races so far was only behind the two Mercedes and Red Bull drivers as well as Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen.

He fought through an eventful first lap, managed his tyres well and was able to take advantage of a safety car period for his second stop to be in the fight for high positions.

Hulkenberg, who finished seventh in Australia and enjoyed a pair of top-six results in Bahrain and China, even finished ahead of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel after the championship leader tangled with the erratic Red Bull of Max Verstappen.

The 30-year old said afterwards: "Everyone seemed to have low grip at the start with cars sliding all over the place. We were on a two-stop strategy from the beginning, so we had to make the tyres last, while maintaining strong pace.

"It paid off well, the safety car played to our hands and made things easier, but even without the safety car I think we would have come out on top.

"The pace was good today and we were on top of the midfield, so not a bad day overall. Eight points we'll take that home.

"It was an entertaining one, that's for sure."

Team-mate Carlos Sainz fought a similar race to pick up two points with a P9 finish.

Renault sit fifth in the constructors championship following a 25-point haul from the first three races.

The Enstone-based outfit are three points behind Renault powered McLaren in the early championship standings, but team principal Cyril Abiteboul remains in confident mood.

"It was obviously a good day for the team which shows we are gaining in maturity," the Frenchman said.

"The team is building and getting stronger across the board.

"Our pace was encouraging, as was the win of Daniel Ricciardo, showing the Renault power unit is getting there and is a race-win capable engine."

The next race is in Baku for the Azerbaijan GP on April 29.

Saints avoid a thrashing in early defeat

American Football

OXFORD Saints kicked off the 2018 British American Football season on Sunday with defeat on home soil.

A close opening half saw Saints behind to Solent Thrashers by just two points but the Tilsley Park side eventually fell 17 29 at the final whistle.

Solent took a 6-0 lead with a run into the endzone within the first 15 minutes with Saints unable to force a comeback before the end of the first quarter.

A touchdown early in the second quarter put the visitors 12 0 ahead but their two point attempt was again no good.

Less than 10 minutes later and the comeback looked on as Oxford kicked one through to register their first three points of the afternoon.

Tony Glover went on a big run to score the Saints first touchdown of the new season five minutes later, bringing the teams to within two points at the midway break.

The third quarter went completely the way of Solent who scored a field goal and touchdown to move 22-10 ahead.

Saints clawed their way back in the fourth quarter with a touchdown before Thrashers added another to win 29-17.

Oxford next travel to second placed Berkshire Renegades on Sunday.

Williams issue warning

F1 - Williams

TEAM principal Claire Williams has made a shock warning that Williams could pull out of Formula 1 and shut down for good if the sport does a U-turn on its recently announced spending cap.

Formula 1 bosses last week revealed that a budget cap of $150million (£105m) will be enforced from 2021 to combat dramatically rising costs within the sport.

"If I look at it from my perspective, if we don't do this, then Williams will close the whole of the company," Williams told racefans.net after it emerged there is strong opposition to the plan.

"[In Bahrain] I was very positive about it, but then there are some of the people that are very negative about it.

"We are lucky that this works for us, but I think it probably demonstrates the fact that our team, track performance aside, is a good model of how a Formula 1 team should be operating in our sport."

The Grove-based team are the only one not to score a point so far this campaign, although Lance Stroll and Sergey Sirotkin were far more competitive at Sunday's Chinese GP with 14th and 15th placed finishes.

Banbury outfit Haas picked up a point as Kevin Magnussen brought his car home in P10. Team mate Romain Grosjean finished 17th behind the two Williams drivers.

Better performance Sergey Sirotkin was more competitive in China but Williams remain a long way off the points **Picture:** *Williams Martini Racing*

Grand day out spoiled after horse pulls up

Grand National

CHIPPING Norton trainer Charlie Longsdon's gelding Pendra pulled up at the 29th fence during Saturday's Randox Health Grand National.

The 10-year-old horse, ridden by jockey Aidan Coleman in green and yellow stripes was an 80 1 outsider heading into the famous Aintree race.

Pendra underwent surgery to improve his breathing ahead of the Grand National after finishing unplaced in the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Amateur Riders' Handicap Chase at the Cheltenham Festival in March.

The race proved to be the gelding's first start for 12 months.

Despite being 50-1, the North Oxfordshire trainer's horse finished 13th on his first visit to Aintree in the National two years ago.

He did not run again until the Cheltenham Festival in 2017 where he finished second in the Kim Muir Chase.

The result followed a fifth place finish in the handicap chase at Cheltenham in 2015 and third in the novice handicap chase the previous year.

A dramatic photo-finish in Saturday's Grand National saw Tiger Roll, ridden by Davy Russell, clinch first place ahead of Pleasant Company.

Glitch hits Mitch's bid to build on high starting position

Formula E

MITCH Evans admitted he was gutted not to build on Jaguar's highest ever starting position after battling for top spot at the maiden Rome E Prix on Saturday.

The young buck started third on the grid for the Grove-based outfit following a superb qualifying and was in the midst of a nail-biting battle for a podium and possible win.

While running as high as second, Evans battled hard with DS Virgin Racing's Sam Bird for the win.

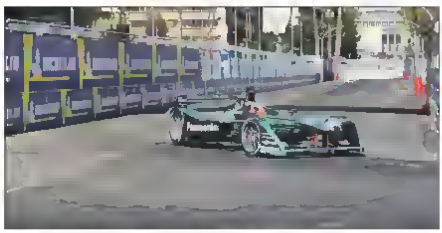
The Kiwi was made to pay though when his attack on Bird during lap 29 failed. He lost momentum, depleting his energy reserves, and eventually crossed the line in ninth.

Evans, wanting more than the two points he earned, said: "Qualifying was good but I'm gutted as we had a chance to win.

"Coming away with points for the team is positive but we could have had a lot more which is hard to take. I had my eyes on the prize but well done to Sam (Bird)."

Team-mate Nelson Piquet started 13th but was forced to retire after 18 laps when he encountered seatbelt difficulty after swapping cars.

Round eight of the Formula E calendar is in Paris on April 28.



Gutted Mitch Evans slipped from third place in qualifying to ninth **Picture:** *Jaguar Panasonic Racing*

One point from safety for City

By George Welch

Oxford City

OXFORD City still need a point to mathematically secure their National League South status after losing 4-2 at mid-table Weston-Super-Mare on Saturday

The Hoops fought from behind to lead only to be pegged back at half time

Hat trick hero Gethyn Hill gave Weston the advantage from the spot on five minutes but the away side hit back to take the lead by the half hour mark.

Kevan Cotter scored his first goal for the club with a heavily deflected looped effort, before Rob Sinclair burst into the box to powerfully strike under Luke Furnell in the Weston goal.

There was another first half twist as the hosts pulled themselves level five minutes before the break, Hill deflecting in a Jarred Welch effort for his and the Seagulls second goal of the game.

The hosts started the second period much the better side and regained the lead on 52 minutes when Aaron Parsons headed home from a free kick.

Oxford boss Mark James responded by altering the system but, despite also making a trio of substitutions, it was the Somerset side who got the vital next goal.

City were slack in possession and the unmarked Hill pounced to chip over Craig King for his hat trick.

Jones said afterwards "We looked dangerous and showed a good reaction to going behind early to then take the lead.

"It wasn't a poor performance first half but the second half performance was not good enough

"We were poor and Weston deserved it in the second half.

"We couldn t get a foothold in the game at all and we weren't good enough."

He added "You can't concede four goals and expect to get anything from the game and the goals we conceded were extremely poor

"We feel angry but we've got to keep cool heads and it's (relegation) in our hands."

City (17th) are nine points clear of Poole Town who occupy the last relegation spot and have three games remaining.

Oxford host relegated and bottom-placed side Bognor Regis Town on Saturday before travelling to play-off hopefuls Braintree Town on Tuesday

Dabut goal Kevan Cotter scored his first goal for City **Picture:** *Michael Allen*

Vanarama National League South
Saturday 14 April
Weston-Super-Mare 4-2 **Oxford City**

Evo-Stik South Premier
Saturday 14 April
Weymouth 1-1 **Banbury United**
Tuesday 17 April
St Neots Town 3-0 **Banbury United**

Evo-Stik South East
Saturday 14 April
Thame United 5-2 Barton Rovers
Tuesday 17 April
Ashford Town 1-1 **Thame United**

Evo-Stik South West
Saturday 14 April
Didcot Town 0-0 AFC Totton
Kidlington 0-1 Salisbury
North Leigh 1-2 Cirencester Town
Monday 16 April
Kidlington 1-2 Bideford
Tuesday 17 April
North Leigh 5-3 Poulton Rovers
Thursday 19 April
Bideford v North Leigh
Kidlington v Swindon Supermarine
(matches after going to press)

Uhlsport Hellenic League Premier Division
Saturday 14 April
Oxford City Nomads 0-2 **Wantage Town**
Tuesday 17 April
Oxford City Nomads 1-1 Fairford Town

Penalty drama in draw

Evo-Stik West

SKIPPER Adam Learoyd led the protests as Didcot Town players were left incensed when the referee failed to award them a late penalty in the goalless draw at home to AFC Totton on Saturday

Substitute George Reid appeared to be fouled inside the area but the man in black, Tom Ellsworth, booked the winger for diving instead, leaving Learoyd and his team mates protesting angrily

It could be a telling moment in the Rathwaymen's quest for an Evo-Stik South West play-off spot.

Diddy who have slipped to eighth, were below par but the game was overshadowed by some poor officiating which denied chance of a vital victory

Elsewhere in Evo Stik West North Leigh are mathematically safe after beating Poulton Rovers 5-3 on Tuesday Dec Shepperd and George Seacole braces and a Matt Sysum strike secured the Millers first win in four matches

The victory followed Saturday's 2 1 loss at Cirencester Town.

Kidlington responded to their 1-0 home defeat to promotion chasing Salisbury City on Saturday with another defeat at Yarnton Road on Monday at the hands of Bideford.

Eddie Odhiambo was sent off as the 18 man of Kiddy lost 2-1

Ben Wood and Ben Seymour (p) scored first half goals for the away side before the Greens pulled one back on the hour

Golly Goss! Hat-trick hero seals win

Evo-Stik East

GOAL hungry Lynton Goss scored a hat-trick and strike partner Dan West netted twice as Thame United enjoyed an entertaining 5-2 home win against Barton Rovers

United, set for an impressive mid-table finish following promotion last season, had to come from behind but eventually eased past the Bedfordshire side

Andrew Phillips put Barton ahead after seven minutes but Goss scored his first of the afternoon to level on the half-hour

Level at the break, it only took Mark West's side three minutes of the second half to take the lead, Goss maintaining his composure to place the ball beyond Matt Finlay in the Barton goal.

The third goal was not long in coming as free kick specialist West placed his set piece over the wall and in off the underside of the bar on 55 minutes The goal was given despite the visitors protesting that the half had not crossed the line.

West prodded home a rebound for his second and Thame's third three minutes later

It continued to rain goals as Michael Gyasi drilled in a 26-yarder for Barton and Goss completed his treble for Thame from the spot on 68 minutes

United, aiming for a top half finish, drew 1 1 at Ashford Town on Tuesday

Thame (11th) have three games remaining and travel to Northwood (17th) on Saturday

Hat-trick: Lynton Goss helped net win **Picture** *Marc Keinch*

Mixed bag in first contest since trophy

Golf

EDDIE Pepperell's return to action on the European Tour was a brief affair after missing the cut despite a superb second round at the Spanish Open.

The Abingdon golfer playing for the first time since his maiden victory in February carded a seven-under par 65 in Madrid but was made to pay for a nightmare opening round.

Understandably a bit rusty, the 27 year-old hit five bogeys and a double bogey for a five-over par 77

It left Pepperell needing a miracle on the second day but, determined to fight back, he nearly pulled it off.

He holed five birdies and an eagle to climb up the leaderboard to sit on two-under par

Starting at the 10th hole, Pepperell picked up shots at his first and eighth before scoring a birdie on the fourth and an eagle on the par five fifth.

He picked up further shots on his last two holes to finish on seven-under for the day

Pepperell opted against entering events in South Africa and India after his victory in Qatar, preferring to recharge his batteries

The world number 88 tees off at the Trophee Hassan II tournament in Morocco today He will start from the 10th tee at 9.30am BST, 8 30am local time.

Pepperell tees off in a group with Swede Robert Karlsson and Spaniard Pablo Larrazabal.

Mixed fortunes: Eddie Pepperell made a slow return to action **Picture.** *European Tour*

Promotion beckons for Stars

Ice Hockey

A DAZZLING second leg performance helped Oxford City Stars move a step closer to promotion glory after shooting past Bristol Pitbulls in the play-off quarter finals

The Stars tamed the Pitbulls 10-1 on Sunday after a more evenly contested 4-3 win the day before for a 14-4 aggregate victory

League winners Oxford will play Chelmsford Cheftains in the semi final on Saturday for a place in Sunday s final against either Solent Devils or Guildford Phoenix.

Both games will be played in Bracknell as the four teams battle for promotion to South 1

Oxford s route was not as easy as the aggregate score suggested. Both quarter final fixtures were played at Oxpens Road and City only had a goal advantage after the 'away leg.

Joshua Oliver (6 minutes) Conor Redmond (38) Dominic Hopkins (40) and Matthew Lawday (59) gave Kenny Redmond s side the narrow lead.

The second leg was far more straightforward as Oxford ran riot in a 10-1 win.

Oliver (7) Darren Elliott (13) and Conor Redmond (18) calmed the nerves with first period goals

Joe Edwards (24) Oliver (25) the retiring Andrew Cox (27) and Theo Bundock (28) added four more in the next 20 minutes

Cox and Joshua Florey scored a further two in the final phase as the Stars shot out of sight

Robbo pleased with first win but there could be more goals

By George Welch

Oxford United 2

James Henry 6 Ricardinho 45+4

Southend United 0

Attendance: 7,332 (776 away)

KARL Robinson cut a relieved figure after Oxford United's 2-0 win at home to Southend United on Saturday

An early strike from James Henry and a stonming second from left back Ricardinho in first-half injury time helped the U's to their first win since Robinson took the reins last month.

The first half goals earnad a crucial three points in United's bid to avoid relegation, and Robinson believes the win should lift the weight off the shoulders of everyone at the club

The Scouser said: "I'm relieved. It s nice to get that win obviously but it's more for the players and the fans

"We were on fire for the first 15 minutes

"It was important to get on the front foot and I m pleased for the players."

He added: "It was a great game to watch, but it wasn't great for the manager

"They had too many chances, but we agun had a number we didn t take.

"It could have been three or four, but they nussed three or four as well."

Henry fired Oxford a hand in the sixth minute with his ninth goal of the season, dancing past two defenders and shooting low into the far corner from 16 yards Mark Oxley in the away goal was rooted to the spot

Southend's Dru Yearwood, one of the League One finds of the season, flashed a right-footed warning shot inches wide of Simon Eastwood s left post

Stand-in captain John Mousinho stabbed a deep corner into the side netting on the half hour before United got the vital second goal deep into first half stoppage time

Ricardinho, hailed by his boss as a diamond, doubled the lead when, after an 80-yard run, the Brazilian took a return pass from the unselfish Jon Ohika and saw his low shot deflect into the net.

The Shrimpers almost struck back within seconds, but Yearwood s shot smacked against Eastwood's left hand post

United looked dangerous in the second half and displayed good game management to see out the game and a first win under Robinson, who threw on substitute Curtis Nelson for the club captain s first appearance since November

Raund of applause Ricardinho scored a stunning second goal in the win **Pictures.** *Steve Daniels*

Victory at last Top: James Henry slottad homa early on before Ricardinho netted a stormer to double tha land celebrated by Wes Thomas

Surprise return for U's captain

CAPTAIN Curtis Nelson paid tribute to those who supported him through his injury after he returned to action well ahead of schedule

It was thought the defender would ant play again this season after rupturing an Achilles tendon five months ago

But after making a remarkable recovery Nelson made an 11 minute cameo off the bench to give the U s a big boost during their 2-0 win against Southend United.

The 24-year-old said: "It was a great result for the team and on a personal note it was nice to come back before the end of the season as I didn't expect it – I'd written it off in November It was done for me

"Thanks to Procs [Andrew Proctor head of sports science and medicine at the U s] all the medical team and all the players for the support they've been giving me.

"There s friends, family everyone at home as well just being there for me and supporting me through the whole thing."

Stand in skipper John Mousinho gave Nelson, stretchered off against Northampton Town in November, the armband when he replaced Alex Mowatt in the 79th minute

Nelson played the full match in the 1-0 defeat at Wigan on Tuesday

Puritans come unstuck as run dries up

Banbury United

BANBURY United's 11 game unbeaten run in the Evo-Stik South Premier was halted at St Neots Town in mid week.

Trailing 1-0 after 30 minutes and offering nothing in response, manager Mike Ford made a tactical first half substitution with Elliot Sandy replacing Amer Awadh to add more impetus in attack.

A dominant St Neots almost doubled their lead immediately after with Jack Harding stretching to tip the ball around the post

Ricky Johnson's header on the stroke of half time was as close as the Puritans would come to a leveller

After five minutes in the second half, Dylan Williams scored from close range to put the home side two goals ahead.

The game was over when former Banbury man Nabil Shariff added St Neots third and final goal of the game.

On Saturday, Banbury rescued a point away to Weymouth after Johnson s strike on 42 minutes cancelled out the home side's opener

Banbury had to dig deep defensively to hold on in the final throws of the game to earn a well-deserved point.

The single point from both fixtures leaves Banbury ninth in the table on 67 points.

The Puritans face Merthyr Town (17th) on Saturday before trip to Frome Town (13th) on Wednesday

Freds lose title as neighbours triumph

Hellenic

LINGERING title hopes were finally dashed for Wantage Town on Saturday as Hellenic Premier leaders Thatcham Town secured promotion with two games to spare

The Freds could still snatch second place in the league if they win their remaining two matches and Bracknell slip up in their final four fixtures.

Third place could be a more realistic possibility for Wantage should they finish the season with back-to-back wins as their Berkshire rivals for promotion have two games in hand

Wantage are two points behind Bracknell and sit four behind second placed Highworth whose season ended with defeat to champions Thatcham.

The Freds, fourth in the division on 64 points after put two past Oxford City Nomads at a sunny Marsh Lane on Saturday

Forward Jim Glover put away the south Oxfordshire side s first goal of the afternoon on 19 minutes before a second half header from Brad Cox on 66 minutes secured all three points

Wantage travel to Windsor (8th) on Wednesday before finishing the season at horrom club Burnham on Saturday April 28

Nomads drew 1 1 at home to Fairford Town on Tuesday to sit 10th on 44 points with two games to go.

Both goals came in the first half, Josh Pin netting the equaliser just before the break.

Abingdon United (12th) did not play

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Wigan Athletic	42	55	90
2	Blackburn Rovers	42	39	87
3	Shrewsbury Town	42	29	82
4	Rotherham United	43	16	73
5	Charlton Athletic	43	6	65
6	Scunthorpe United	42	16	64
7	Plymouth Argyle	41	5	64
8	Portsmouth	43	1	63
9	Peterborough United	42	12	61
10	Bradford City	41	10	57
11	Blackpool	43	3	56
12	Bristol Rovers	42	-4	56
13	Doncaster Rovers	41	3	54
14	Fleetwood Town	43	-5	54
15	Southend United	42	13	53
16	Gillingham	43	5	52
17	Oxford United	43	-6	50
18	AFC Wimbledon	42	11	49
19	Walsall	42	-11	43
20	Oldham Athletic	42	-14	47
21	Rochdale	42	-8	46
22	Northampton Town	43	-35	43
23	MK Dons	42	19	42
24	Bury	43	-31	31

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More sport inside: F1: Renault build on good start to season | Ice Hockey: Nearer promotion glory | Golf: Impressive second round too late in Spain

Thank you: Oxford United applaud the fans after securing a 2-0 win on Saturday the first under Karl Robinson, before losing out in the closing minutes on Tuesday to title-chasing Wigan Athletic
Picture: Steve Daniels

Grigg fires home a late winner to spoil U's trip

By George Welch

Wigan Athletic 1

Will Grigg 87

Oxford United 0

Attendance 8,316 (445 away)

VALLIANT Oxford United suffered late heartbreak for the second Tuesday running after an 87th minute winner unlocked a resolute defensive U's performance at Wigan Athletic.

Substitute Will Grigg, who netted a hat-trick in the Latics 7-0 demolition of United in December tapped home the only goal of the game three minutes from time.

Manager Karl Robinson treated the visit to the title hopefuls as a "free hit" and made five changes from Saturday's win against Southend.

But the resilient U's sat back and uncharacteristically soaked up pressure in a very studious tactical game – and it nearly paid off.

"If you are going to be successful you need to be able to go to places and close the back door," Robinson said.

"You need to be able to keep a clean sheet then nick it at the right time.

"The fours and the fives will come but sometimes a 0-0 or a 1-0 are just as special and we were very close to that."

United had their moments but they also rode their luck.

Ricardinho dipped a left-footed volley and the immense Canice Carroll flashed a volley of his owe wide to make sure Wigan stopper Christian Walton was awake.

At the other end the fantastically named Max Power twice forced Simon Eastwood into action with efforts that sandwiched a Michael Jacobs cracker that bounced away off the bar.

The Latics applied pressure as United went into the break level after a spirited first 45.

Oxford maintained focus in the second half but were issued a warning shot when Grigg blasted over when it was easier to score.

Agon Mehmeti had United's best chance of the game and, just as it looked like the visitors would take something down the M6, Wigan delivered the sucker punch.

Winger Devante Cole squared to give Grigg a tap-in for his 25th goal of the season.

Robinson said afterwards: "The players and fans were excellent. The players gave everything they possibly could for the football club.

"I can't ask any more but maybe if our strikers take their chances we win the game – that's the difference."

Oxford are four places and four points above the relegation zone with three games to play.

All four teams below them have a game in hand on the U's, who travel to Doncaster Rovers on Saturday.

Robbo sings praises for Carroll's shift

A MEMORABLE shift from the determined Canice Carroll staked a claim for a regular starting position after catching the eye of the new boss.

The Irish youth international pictured impressed in the middle of Oxford United's mid-field on Tuesday before running out of steam and being replaced by Agon Mehmeti for the final 15 minutes.

Appearing for the first time since Karl Robinson took charge, Carroll said: "We gave it our all and it's disappointing to concede a late goal.

"They're good at breaking fast and playing through teams. We came here to do what they did to us for their goal.

"It was a good performance from the lads and we've got to take it into Saturday's big game at Doncaster Rovers."

The 19-year-old, who said the team were out for revenge following the 7-0 reverse at the Kassam in December, is a team player.

He said: "If I'm not on the top of my game passing wise then I will always run around and try and make something happen.

"I had a couple of chances myself. I know I'm hard on myself but I should have scored."

Praising the Irish international, Robinson said: "He almost collapsed on the pitch. He was outstanding.

"I want that kind of dedication from all my players. When he came off we missed that."

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